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CHARLES DE SECONDAT,
BARON DE MONTESQUIEU.

FROM A SCARCE PRINT BY DUPUIS.

THE LETTERS

OF

PHILIP DORMER STANHOPE,

EARL OF CHESTERFIELD

INCLUDING

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FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

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BY LORD MAHON.

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LORD CHESTERFIELD'S
LETTERS, POLITICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A M. JOUNEAU.*

(Works, vol. iii. p. 2.†)

Trin. Hall, Cambridge, ce 22 Août, 1712.

MONSIEUR,

J'AI eu un sensible plaisir en lisant la lettre, que vous avez eu la bonté de m'écrire ; il me sembloit que vous me parliez vous même, et que j'étois dans la compagnie de l'homme du monde que j'estime le plus, et à qui je souhaite le plus ardemment de pouvoir faire plaisir. J'y aurois répondu plutôt, n'eût été que j'ai passé cette semaine chez l'Evêque d'Ely,‡ qui demeure à quinze milles d'ici. J'ai, dans ce peu de tems, vu plus de la campagne que je n'avois vu auparavant dans toute ma vie, et qui ici-autour est très agréable.

* M. Jouneau was one of the French Protestants whom the revocation of the Edict of Nantes drove from their native country. He became Minister of a French congregation in Berwick Street, Soho. Young Philip Stanhope, afterwards Lord Chesterfield, was put under his care by his grandmother, Lady Halifax, and received from him his first instruction in languages and history.

† The edition of Lord Chesterfield's Works referred to in this and the following pages is that in octavo, 1779. Of its four volumes, the first contains Dr. Maty's Memoirs, the second Miscellaneous Essays, the third letters in French, and the fourth letters nearly all in English.

‡ Dr. John Moore (translated from Norwich) was Bishop of Ely from 1707 to 1713.

Je continue bien ferme dans mes études, qui ne sont encore que le Latin et le Grec, à cause que la foire, qui va venir en dix jours, les auroit interrompues, mais après que ce divertissement sera fini, je dois commencer le droit civil, la philosophie, et un peu de mathématiques ; mais pour l'anatomie, je ne la pourrai point apprendre ; car, quoiqu'il y ait eu un pauvre pendu, le chirurgien, qui avoit coutume de faire ces opérations, n'en a point voulu faire cette fois, parceque c'étoit un homme, et alors il dit que les écoliers ne veulent point venir.

Je trouve ce collège, dans lequel je suis, infiniment le meilleur de tout l'université, car c'est le plus petit, et il est rempli d'avocats, qui ont été dans le monde, et qui savent vivre. Nous n'avons qu'un ministre, qui est aussi le seul ivrogne du collège. Quoiqu'on en dise, il y a fort peu de débauche dans cette université, et surtout parmi les gens de condition ; car il faudroit avoir un goût de portefaix ou de crocheteur, pour la pouvoir souffrir ici.

Il me semble que nous sommes fort mal dans nos affaires, mais, ne pouvant les empêcher, je ne me mêle guère de politique : seulement je me fais un plaisir d'aller voir quelquefois au café les batailles rangées qui s'y donnent, entre les héros de chaque côté, avec une bravoure inconcevable, et qui ne se terminent qu'après l'entière défaite de quelques tasses de thé des deux côtés.

Je crains de vous avoir déjà trop ennuyé ; au moins de peur de le faire, il est bien tems de vous dire que je suis, &c.

A M. JOUNEAU.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 7.)

Ce 21 Septembre. [1712.]

MONSIEUR,

JE n'ai pas voulu perdre la première occasion de vous envoyer cette bagatelle, ce que j'aurois honte de faire, si je ne vous assurois en même tems, que je voudrois bien que ce fût dix fois autant. Je vins en ville hier au soir, pour quelques jours, et j'espère qu'il ne se passera pas longtems avant que j'aye le plaisir de vous voir.

Je suis, &c.

A M. JOUNEAU.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 7.)

Ce 12 Octobre, 1712.

MONSIEUR,

LES divertissemens de Newmarket, où je fus trois ou quatre jours, m'ont empêché de vous écrire sitôt que j'avois intention ; outre que j'ai été dans un embarras furieux en changeant de chambres. J'espère que me voici accommodé pour le tems que je demeurerai ici.

C'est à cette heure, Monsieur, que j'ai bien des affaires sur les bras, car j'emploie plus d'une heure par jour au droit civil, et tout autant à la philosophie ; et la semaine qui vient, l'aveugle* commencera ses leçons de mathématiques ; de sorte que me voici bien occupé. Croiriez-vous bien aussi que je lis Lucien et Xenophon en Grec ? ce qui m'est rendu assez aisé, car

* Professor Saunderson.

je ne m'embarrasse point d'apprendre toutes les règles de la grammaire : mais l'homme qui est avec moi, et qui est une grammaire vivante,* me les enseigne en lisant. Je me reserve du tems pour jouer à la paume, car je souhaite aussi bien le *corpus sanum* que le *mens sana* ; il me semble que l'un ne vaut guères sans l'autre.

Depuis mon arrivée ici, j'ai reçu la lettre que vous envoyâtes à Oxford, quelqu'un l'ayant changé pour Cambridge ; et je trouve votre mémoire (dont vous vous plaignez tant) excellente, car elle est, à quelques petits mots près, justement la même que l'autre que vous envoyâtes après, mais que je n'eus pas pour cela moins de plaisir en lisant.

Decies repetita placebit—

ce qui est la devise qu'un ministre ici (qui épousa l'autre jour une très jolie fille) mit dans la bague de noce.

Ecrivez moi donc souvent, Monsieur, je vous en prie, quand vous n'aurez rien autre chose à faire, et vous obligerez infiniment, Monsieur, votre, &c.

A M. JOUNEAU.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 11.)

Ce Jeudi Saint. [1713.]

JE vous demande mille pardons, Monsieur, de n'avoir pas plutôt rendu réponse à votre dernière let-

* The Rev. Mr. Crowe, who was Lord Chesterfield's private tutor, and who afterwards became one of the Chaplains of King George the Second. Dr. Maty was assured by Bishop Chenevix, that when Lord Chesterfield was at Cambridge he used to study in his apartment without stirring from it till six o'clock in the evening. (Memoirs, p. 31.)

tre, mais il y a quelque tems que j'ai été fort occupé à l'anatomie, outre mes exercices ordinaires, ou bien j'aurois été en ville avant ce tems ici.

Je ne m'étonne guères de l'honneteté que votre fils, avec les enfans de Sir George Byng,* trouva de la part des François. En vérité ils nous en doivent de reste, et c'est une pauvre recompense pour tout ce que nous leur avons donné.†

Je suis fort obligé à Mr. Chasseloup du bien qu'il dit de moi, et ce n'est pas pour lui rendre la pareille, que je vous dis que c'est un fort joli garçon.

Il ne faut pas que vous attendiez des nouvelles d'ici, de sort que je finirai, en vous assurant que je ne manquerai pas de faire ce que vous me demandez, quand je serai à Londres, ce qui sera en peu de temps, et que cependant je suis, &c.

TO THE HON. GEORGE BERKELEY.‡

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 1.)

Trin. Hall, Cambridge, June 25, O. S. [1713.]

MY DEAR GEORGE,

I WOULD have written to you before I received your last letter, but I found by your first that you were so expeditious in moving from place to place that I thought my former directions would not serve. You do not know what you ask when you would have me

* M. Jouneau's son had been bred a physician, and travelled with Sir George Byng's sons.

† By the Peace of Utrecht.

‡ George Berkeley was youngest son of the second Earl Berkeley. In 1735 he married Henrietta Hobart, Dowager Countess of Suffolk—another friend and correspondent of Lord Chesterfield.

write long letters; you would quickly be a weary on it, should I obey you: what a number of insignificant trifles must I put together to fill up this sheet of paper, and how tiresome would it be to you to have a true and faithful history of Midsummer fair, which is our present diversion! But since you will—faith, you shall have enough on it; but I give you free leave to throw this letter by as soon as ever you are tired on it.

I came down from London a week ago, which place afforded me little diversion. Plays and operas were left off, and I fell short of the pleasure I proposed to myself from the French Ambassador's* masquerades; for our good Queen, thinking them encouragements to vice, discountenanced them so much, that he, out of complaisance, gave them over.

But now to come to Cambridge: I must first tell you that I have not yet seen Miss Neville, but it will not be long first, for her sagacious father is at London; so, if the daughter and the greyhound be not locked up, I will take this opportunity of a tête-à-tête.

* * * * *

Jack Cowper is more and more in love every day, passes three parts in four of his life with the nymph, and is gay or sad just as it pleases her Ladyship to frown or smile. Our old stupid Heads† would not let us have a public *commencement*, to the great disappointment of all our young folks, whether male or female.

Your departure, dear George, has been very unsuccessful to us, for as soon as you went away we imme-

* The Duke d'Aumont.

† Of Houses.

diately lost the name of the Witty Club, and I am afraid we shall soon dwindle into no club at all, for Exton Sayer is gone to London, and George Stanley goes this week; the *Bonny* goes in a fortnight into Staffordshire; so do but think what a poor solitary remnant we shall be. Prithee comfort us as often as you can with a letter, which we will retail at proper times as our own wit, to retrieve as much of our character as we can. None of our Cambridge verses are worth sending you; a great many of them are egregiously silly; mine are some of the prettiest in the book; the *Bonny* made them for me; we are now burlesquing them as fast as ever we can. I rejoice much that your nut-brown girl afforded you such good sport; I should be glad to be with you to partake of those innocent amusements to which you dedicate your *horas subsecivas*; but pray set one or two of them apart sometimes, to oblige with a letter, my dear George,

Thy most sincere friend.*

TO THE HON. GEORGE BERKELEY.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 5.)

Hague, May 29, 1714.

MY DEAR GEORGE,

I HOPE you will pardon me for not having thanked you for the favour of your letter (which I received at Antwerp) till now; I hope you will not impute it to indifference or forgetfulness in one that always loves

* The "Cambridge verses" were a collection of short poems on the Peace of Utrecht. It is not known to whom Lord Chesterfield alludes as *Bonny*, nor has the Editor of the Suffolk Letters been able to trace with certainty the other persons mentioned in this letter.

and remembers you. But the truth is, that at Antwerp the Duke and Duchess * were so civil to me that I had not time to be so to anybody else, for I was with them from morning to night all the while I stayed there. The Duke and the Duchess inquired extremely after their friend as they called you, and commanded me the first time I writ to you to assure you of their good wishes.

This place is now extremely pleasant and entertaining; I wish I could describe it so to you as to tempt you to take a little journey, and make it more so: I have power to tell you that there is a large room in a certain house very much at your service, where I am sure you might pass two or three months this summer much cheaper, and I believe more agreeably, than at London. Pray send me some news from London; and whatever I can pick up here I shall inform you of, though it is but a poor return. I am, &c.

A M. JOUNEAU.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 11.)

à la Haye, ce 10 Août, N. S. [1714.]

MONSIEUR,

JE vous aurois plutôt remercié de la lettre que vous avez eu la bonté de m'écrire, si des petits voyages que j'ai faits depuis peu pour voir les endroits à l'entour d'ici, comme Amsterdam, Leyde, Utrecht, &c., ne m'en eussent empêché. C'est avec justice que vous me re-

* The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, who, in 1712, had deemed it prudent to withdraw from England, and had fixed their residence at Antwerp.

prochez de ne vous avoir pas écrit, selon ma promesse, et j'avoue qu'il y avoit de la paresse dans mon fait ; car, quoique je ne souhaitasse rien davantage que de vous témoigner l'estime et le respect que j'ai pour vous, toutefois je remettois de jour en jour et le plaisir et la peine de vous écrire.

Pour la description des villes de Flandres, que vous me demandez, je crois qu'il seroit assez inutile de vous l'envoyer, car vous la savez déjà mieux que moi, par des personnes qui en ont pu mieux juger ; et, pour des réflexions, je n'en ai pu faire aucune, car vous savez qu'elles doivent être faites plutôt sur les personnes que sur les choses ; et, comme je ne faisais que passer, je n'ai pas eu le tems d'y faire aucune connoissance ; mais, quand même j'en eusse fait, je ne sais si j'aurois eu la hardiesse de vous les communiquer. Je connois trop bien votre jugement et le mien.

Le séjour que j'ai fait ici m'a été fort agréable, car cet endroit est tout-à-fait charmant dans l'été, et la compagnie y est fort bonne, à cause du grand nombre d'étrangers qui y demeurent ; car, pour les gens du pays, il est certain qu'ils ne sont pas du commerce le plus raffiné : ce sont d'assez bonnes gens, mais qui ne se mêlent pas de la conversation.

La semaine qui vient, je pars pour un endroit qu'on m'assure ne sera pas moins divertissant, je veux dire Turin, où je resterai jusqu'au Carnaval ; puis j'irai à Venise, de-là à Rome, &c.* Quand vous voudrez bien me faire le plaisir de m'écrire (ce que j'espère vous voudrez bien souvent), vous n'avez qu'à envoyer vos lettres chez Milady Halifax, qui me les fera recevoir ;

* This project was laid aside on the events which followed the death of Queen Anne.

et moi de mon côté, je ne manquerai pas de vous en remercier, et de vous assurer avec combien de sincérité et respect je suis, &c.

Je vous prie de faire mes complimens
à Madame votre femme.

A M. JOUNEAU.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 15.)

Paris, Dec. 7. [1714.]

MONSIEUR,

JE suis fort fâché de n'avoir pas reçu votre lettre, dont vous me parlez dans celle que je reçus hier de votre part, d'autant plus que je crois que vous m'y donniez quelque occasion de vous faire plaisir, ce que je chercherai toujours avec empressement. Je suis bien aise que Milady Halifax ait fait ce qu'elle a pu en votre faveur. Vous me reprochez (et pas sans quelque raison) de ne vous avoir pas écrit depuis mon arrivée à Paris. J'avoue ma faute, je m'en repens, et vous verrez la sincérité de mon repentir, par la quantité de lettres dont je vous accablerai dans la suite. Vous me demanderez quartier, mais vous aurez beau faire; je vous punirai de n'avoir pas connu votre premier bonheur.

Il y avoit trop peu de tems que j'étois sorti de l'Angleterre, pour souhaiter d'y retourner à quelque prix que ce fût; autrement j'aurois bien voulu y avoir été à l'arrivée du Roi, pour prendre part à la joie qu'on en devoit avoir. Si je n'avois point d'autre raison, la seule tristesse que témoignent les François, et les Anglois de la suite du Prétendant, sur la mort de la Reine,

seroit capable de m'en consoler. Mais quand je vois combien loin les choses étoient déjà avancées en faveur du Prétendant et du Papisme, et que nous étions à deux doigts de l'esclavage, je compte absolument pour le plus grand bonheur qui soit jamais arrivé à l'Angleterre, la mort de cette femme, qui, si elle eût vécu encore trois mois, alloit sans doute établir sa religion, et par conséquent la tyrannie, et nous auroit laissé, après sa mort, pour Roi, un bâtard, tout aussi sot qu'elle, et qui, comme elle, auroit été mené par le nez par une bande de scélérats. La déclaration du Prétendant, et mille autres choses, sont des preuves convaincantes du dessein qu'avaient ces conjurés du ministère, de le faire entrer.

Si vous voulez que je vous dise franchement mes sentimens de la France, il faut que vous me permettiez de vous considérer comme Anglois, et alors je vous dirai, que hormis Versailles, il n'y a rien ici que nous n'ayons de plus beau et de meilleur en Angleterre. Je ne vous dirai pas mes sentimens des François, parceque je suis fort souvent pris pour un, et plus d'un François m'a fait le plus grand compliment qu'ils croient pouvoir faire à personne, qui est, "Monsieur, "vous êtes tout comme nous." Je vous dirai seulement, que je suis insolent; que je parle beaucoup, bien haut, et d'un ton de maître; que je chante et que je danse en marchant; et, enfin, que je fais une dépense furieuse en poudre, plumets, gands blancs, &c.

J'écrirai à Mr. Morris qu'il vous donne la moitié de cette bagatelle; et pour le reste, j'aurai l'honneur de vous le donner moi-même en très peu de tems.

Je suis, Monsieur, &c.

TO G. BUBB (DODINGTON), ESQ.*

(Seward's Anecdotes, vol. ii. p. 354, ed. 1804.)

August 20, 1716.

DEAR SIR,

WE have both had the luck we could have wished for, for I have had the happiness to receive your letters, and find by them that you have escaped the trouble of mine.

Your last gave me some hopes of seeing you here this winter, but I am since informed that I must be some time longer without that satisfaction. How far your public spirit may prevail I can't tell, and make you prefer your country's service to any other consideration; but, setting that motive aside, I believe you would not be unwilling to see London again, nor like it the worse for coming from Madrid; the gravity and reservedness of the one may be very good preparation towards tasting the other.

If you have a great turn to politics, you will find here ample matter for the exercise of that talent. Never were more speculations and to less purpose than now; for the mystery of State is become, like that of Godliness, ineffable and incomprehensible, and has likewise the same good luck of being thought the finer for not being understood.

As for the gay part of the town, you would find it much more flourishing than you left it. Balls, assemblies, and masquerades have taken place of dull

* G. Bubb, who took the name of Dodington, and who, in 1761, obtained the title of Lord Melcombe, is "damned to everlasting fame" by that shameless record of his own political profligacy—the Diary published since his death. At the period of this letter he was employed on a diplomatic mission in Spain.

formal visiting days, and the women are become much more agreeable trifles than they were designed.

I can't omit telling you that puns are extremely in vogue and the license very great; the variation of three or four letters in a word breaks no squares, inso-much that an indifferent punster may make a very good figure in the best companies.

I am, dear Sir, &c.

To _____

(Mahon's History of England, vol. ii. Append. p. 52, second ed.)

[This letter is among Archdeacon Coxe's copies at the British Museum, vol. lxxii. p. 119. It has no address nor date of year, but was in all probability addressed to some one in office, or at Court, and dated in 1720, just after the Ministers had been joined by Walpole and Townshend.]

Paris, June 27.

DEAR SIR,

I REMEMBER when I left England I threatened you that I would write to you, and you promised you would write to me; and it has happened, as it generally does in the world, that the threats are performed and the promises broke. It would sincerely have been a very great satisfaction to me, to have heard from you, though I know you have so much other business that I scarce expected it. You may possibly now have some idle time upon your hands since the recess of the Parliament and the King's journey.* If you have, I can assure you you cannot bestow any part on't upon one that will be more obliged to you

* To Hanover.

for it than myself. I must congratulate you upon the great addition of strength you have acquired by the late change, and must own you are a liberal rewarder of true penitents; but still remember a line in Othello, "Look to her, Moor; she has deceived her "Father and may thee!"

I cannot help mentioning to you now what I spoke to you of in England, and desiring to know whether you have taken any step in it yet. I own, the more I think of it, the more I wish it may be thought either proper or practicable; it being in my mind the only way of my coming into any business, and leaving an idle life that I am grown weary of. I leave entirely to you, as the best judge, what methods to take in it, and rely so much upon your friendship, that I am convinced you will not omit any that may promote it. I should only be glad to know whether you think there is any probability of success, that I may regulate my conduct in the next Sessions accordingly. For as, of the one side, I should be very willing to engage in debate and the business of the House, as well as I am able, which, though I should do very indifferently, I could not do worse than the present possessor, so, of the other side, to enter the lists and get a broken head merely as a volunteer would be childish and impertinent. I must remind you that I am very far from expecting that a remove should be made in my favor, for I would desire nothing more than a promise when such vacancy should happen. If you think of anything more that is proper to be done of my side, you will give me your directions. I am in the mean time with the greatest truth, &c.

When you do me the favor to write, pray send your letter in some of Sir Robert Sutton's* packets, for those that are sent by the post generally miscarry.

TO MRS. HOWARD'S† LAP-DOG.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 327.)

["This is a reply, written, when Lord Chesterfield was very young, "to a letter addressed to him in the name of Mrs. Howard's lap-dog, "announcing her *accouchement*."] Note to Suffolk Papers.

Bath, Sept. 5.

DEAR MARQUISE,

I RECEIVED with a great deal of pleasure the account of your happy delivery, and (as I judge by the brevity and conciseness) from some fair hand of your acquaintance.

I always thought epistolary correspondence the properest with those of your species, which makes me glad of this opportunity to congratulate you upon this occasion at a distance, where I cannot have your answer by word of mouth. I have no rules to give you for your conduct in the month but to avoid all noise as much as possible, and therefore I would only recommend to you the company of that laconic lady‡ who sent me that very short relation of your labour, unless you find some few others (which possibly you may) of equal taciturnity.

* The British Ambassador at Paris.

† Henrietta, eldest daughter of Sir Henry Hobart, Bart., married, about 1708, the Hon. Charles Howard, who, by the death of his nephews and two elder brothers, succeeded in 1731 to the Earldom of Suffolk. Lady Suffolk is well known by the favour of George the Second, and the friendship of men of letters.

‡ Mrs. Howard.

I beg of you not to be at all concerned at any insinuations that may be thrown out, that your issue does not bear that resemblance to the father which it ought. Many salvos might be found out for it, if necessary; but it is very long since any wise mother has been very uneasy, or any prudent husband too inquisitive, as to affairs of that kind. The great tenderness I hear you have shown towards your little nursery, is never enough to be commended; and as it may be an example for many parents to follow, and others to blush at, so ought it to be said to your honour, that you use your dogs like children, while they use their children like dogs. But, alas! the care you have hitherto taken relates only to their bodies. The great concern is still to come; I mean the forming of their minds. As to which, I look upon it as their peculiar advantage, and your happiness, (notwithstanding what some grave authors assert to the contrary), that they are to have their education in a Court, a Court that —; but, as I have the honour to be one of it,* I must not give it its due commendations. As example is better than precept, you will there have an opportunity to set before their eyes ex-

* Lord Chesterfield, as Lord Stanhope of Shelford, was at this period one of the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales, and had followed his Royal Highness into Opposition. Great efforts were made by the Court to reclaim him, the title of Duke being offered for his father. But this temptation could not induce the young nobleman to forsake either his attachments or his principles. "He thought, likewise," adds Dr. Maty, "that the younger sons of a Duke ought to have larger fortunes than either his brothers or his children were likely to have. The old Earl of Chesterfield, though shy of the Court, was less indifferent to its trappings. He expressed his displeasure at his son's refusal, and perhaps was happy in having a new excuse to justify his ill-treatment of him." (*Memoirs of Lord Chesterfield*, p. 55.)

amples of all kinds. It is impossible but that, among the number of ladies you daily converse with, you may point out to your two female little ones some virtues to imitate, and many faults to avoid; above all, show them the inconveniences of a snappish and snarling disposition, especially in their sex; and, if you can produce examples, it would not be amiss neither to caution them against over-discretion, which you may enforce by assuring them, that, had you been over-nice, they had not been at all, and you had died a maid.

As for your issue male, they will likewise reap very great and glorious advantages from example; for, were you only to set before them the nine Lords,* you may make them very accomplished puppies; but you may with very good success take a greater latitude, and borrow very useful hints from several others of the family. While they are little you cannot do better than let them play with the secretary;† but, when they come to dog's estate, bid them imitate, and, if possible, emulate, the magnanimity and fortitude of Herbert‡ and Belhaven,§ that they may one day be justly promoted to the dignity of house dogs. In short, that your progeny may in time be both the ornaments and the guardians of the Lodge,|| is the hearty and sincere wish of,

Yours, &c.

* Of the Prince's Bedchamber.

† Probably Mr. Molyneux, Secretary to the Prince.

‡ Henry, afterwards ninth Earl of Pembroke.

§ John, fourth Lord Belhaven.

|| Richmond Lodge.

To THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 184.)

The Peak, June 30, 1725.

MADAM,

I THINK I have acquired a sort of a right of troubling you with a letter every time I go into the country ; I am sure, at least, I have a temptation to do it, which I cannot resist—that is, your usual goodness in letting me afterwards have one from you.

After assuring you of my respects, which no place can alter, I am more at a loss what to say from hence, than I should have been from any other part, either of this world or the next ; for, were I to give you a true description of this place, I should lie under the imputation that travellers generally do. I will only tell you, by way of specimen, that the inhabitants here are as utter strangers to the sun as they are to shoes and stockings ; and were it, by some strange revolution in nature, once to shine upon them, the unusual light would certainly blind them, in case the heat did not suddenly kill them. It is called the Peak ; and you have heard that the Devil is reported to have some possessions in it, which I certainly believe. For, had I been a Papist (as, thank God, I am not), I should have thought myself in purgatory ; but, being a good Protestant, I was obliged most orthodoxly to conclude myself to be in Hell. But reflecting, since, how little good company I meet with *here*, and how much I might expect to find *there*, together with the consideration of my excessive poverty, I begin to believe I am in Scotland, where, like the rest of that nation, I only stay till I am master of half-a-crown to get out of it.

But, after all this, I ought in justice, and indeed, to *give the Devil his due*, to inform you of the satisfactions I meet with here.

In the first place, the waters, that my father came here to drink, have done him a great deal of good, and, I hope, have confirmed his health for a considerable time. In the next place, I have my two brothers, who make it their whole business to entertain me. They never suffer me to be alone, thinking me inclined to melancholy. Then, having heard that I love music, they spare no pains to please me that way: the eldest performing tolerably ill upon a broken hautboy, and the youngest something worse upon a cracked flute. As I would be civil in my turn too, I beg of them not to give themselves so much trouble upon my account, being apprehensive that the great expense of breath may impair their lungs; but all to no purpose, for they assure me they will venture anything to divert me, and so play the more.

Besides these domestic amusements, I have likewise my recreations abroad, both pleasant and profitable: for I have won three half-crowns of the curate at a horse-race, and six shillings of Gaffer Foxeley at a cock-match. But whether this success may not one day or other prove to my cost, by drawing me into gaming,* I cannot answer.

I am afraid I have, like most memoir writers, troubled you too long with the account of my own life; but you will easily excuse me, for the sake of that agreeable variety you will find in it. So, wishing you all imaginable success at Trey-ace, Commerce, or whatever else may be the prevailing diversion at the

* Raillery of his own passion for gaming.

Lodge, I am, with the greatest truth and respect,
Yours, &c.

P. S.—I must beg of you, if his Royal Highness should be ever so good as to mention me, that you will present my most profound duty and respect to him, when you find it not improper. I hope their three* Highnesses are well.

TO THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 196.)

Bretby,† Oct. 23, 1725.

MADAM,

YOU have so often indulged me in troubling you with my applications, and the satisfaction I have in being particularly obliged to you is so great, that I fear I do not enough consider the trouble I may give you: however, I must venture once more upon this occasion, and beg the favour of you to make my excuse to the Prince for not paying my duty to him upon his birth-day,‡ as I ought to do.

I hope his Royal Highness will do me the justice to believe that it is neither a negligence of my duty, nor a want of inclination to pay it, but an almost indispensable necessity, that hinders me from coming

* The Prince of Wales's three children: Frederick, William, and Augusta.

† Bretby Park, in Derbyshire, the seat of the Earls of Chesterfield. It is remarkable that, in this whole collection, only this letter and the following are dated from thence; and even these two are filled with complaints of being there!

‡ October 30, O.S.

to town ; for ever since my father had his fits (which were such and so many as I believe no other body ever survived) he has continued entirely senseless : in which condition it is impossible for me, upon many accounts besides filial piety, to leave him. How long he will continue so, I cannot tell ; but this I am sure of, that if it be much longer I shall be the maddest of the two : this place being the seat of horror and despair, where no creatures but ravens, screech-owls, and birds of ill-omen, seem willingly to dwell ; for as for the very few human faces that I behold, they look, like myself, rather condemned than inclined to stay here.

Were I given to romances, I should think myself detained by enchantments in the castle of some inexorable magician, which I am sure Don Quixote often did upon much slighter grounds ; or were I inclined to a religious melancholy, I should fancy myself in Hell : but not having the happiness of being yet quite out of my senses, I fancy—what is worse than either—that I am just where I am, in the old mansion-seat of the family, and that, too, not my own.

I ask a thousand pardons for giving you all this trouble ; but at the same time beg you will believe that it is impossible to be more sensible of the many obligations I have to you than I am ; which I should not be entirely unworthy of, could there be any merit in being, with the greatest respect and sincerity, &c.

To THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 198.)

Bretby, Nov. 13, 1725.

MADAM,

WHEN you did me the honour of writing to me, I believe you could not expect to escape being troubled with my thanks for it, though my satisfaction was very much lessened by finding that your illness prevented my having that honour sooner. I hope you are now perfectly recovered; and I may venture to assure you, that among the numbers of people that (I dare say) interest themselves in your health, none can do it more sincerely than I do.

I am glad to find you do justice to my filial piety. I own I think it surpasses that of Æneas; for when he took such care of his father he was turned of fourscore, and not likely to trouble him long: but you may observe that he prudently disposed of his wife, who being much younger, was consequently more likely to stick by him; which makes me shrewdly suspect that had his father been of the same age as mine, he would not have been quite so well looked after. I hope, like him, I shall be at last rewarded with a Lavinia, or at least a Dido, which possibly may be full as well.

I am afraid you are too much in the right when you tell me I am in purgatory; for souls always stay there till they go to Heaven, which I doubt will be my case; whereas I should be very glad of baiting a considerable time at London in my way to it. I am, with the greatest truth and respect, &c.*

* Philip, third Earl of Chesterfield, expired soon after the date of this letter, on January 27, 1726. Austere and unamiable as his char-

TO THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 288.)

Hague,* May 18, N. S. [1728.]

MADAM,

AMONG the many privileges I enjoy here, I exercise none with so much pleasure as I do that which you granted me of writing to you, in order to put you sometimes in mind of a very humble servant, too insignificant to be remembered by any thing but his importunity.

Could I imagine that you had the goodness to interest yourself in the least in what concerns me here, I could yet give you but a very indifferent account of myself hitherto, the little time I have passed here having been wholly employed in ceremonies as disagreeable to receive as to relate; the only satisfaction that I have yet had has been to find, that the people here, being convinced that I am determined to please them as much as I am able, are equally resolved in return to please me as much as possible, and I cannot express the civilities I have met with from all sorts of people. Notwithstanding which, as far as I can judge, neither my acquaintances nor my pleasures here will make me forget, or even hinder me from regretting, those I left at London. My great comfort is, that I have all the reason in the world to believe that my stay here will be highly

acter may have been, it is impossible not to observe, and not to condemn, the levity of tone, and the absence of all filial feeling which this and the preceding letter imply.

* The death of George the First, in 1727, opened to the new Earl of Chesterfield, the path of honours and employments. He was appointed Ambassador to Holland, and set out for his destination on the 23rd of April, 1728.

beneficial both to my body and my soul; here being few temptations, and still fewer opportunities to sin, as you will find by the short but true account I will give you of myself.

My morning is entirely taken up in doing the King's business very ill, and my own still worse; this lasts till I sit down to dinner with fourteen or fifteen people, where the conversation is cheerful enough, being animated by the *patronazza*, and other loyal healths. The evening, which begins at five o'clock, is wholly sacred to pleasures; as, for instance, the Forault* till six; then either a very bad French play, or a *reprize* at quadrille with three ladies, the youngest upwards of fifty, at which, with a very ill run, one may lose, besides one's time, three florins: this lasts till ten o'clock, at which time I come home, reflecting with satisfaction on the innocent amusements of a well spent day that leave no sting behind them, and go to bed at eleven, with the testimony of a good conscience. In this serenity of mind I pity you who are forced to endure the tumultuous pleasures of London. I considered you particularly last Tuesday, suffering the heat and disorders of the masquerade, supported by the Duchess of Richmond† of one side, and Miss Fitzwilliam‡ of the other, all three weary and wanting to be gone; upon which I own I

* Or according to the Dutch spelling, *Voorhout*; a public walk, which is said to have been planted and laid out by the Emperor Charles V.

† Sarah, daughter and co-heir of William, first Earl Cadogan. Among Lord Chesterfield's light pieces of poetry, is one in celebration of her beauty, beginning

"What do scholars and bards and astronomers wise," &c.

‡ The Hon. Mary Fitzwilliam, afterwards Countess of Pembroke.

pitied you so much that I wished myself there, only to help you out of the crowd.

After all this, to speak seriously, I am very far from disliking this place: I have business enough one part of the day to make me relish the amusements of the other part, and even to make them seem pleasures; and if any thing can comfort one for the absence of those one loves or esteems, it is meeting with the good will of those one is obliged to be with, which very fortunately, though undeservedly, is my case. There is, besides, one pleasure that I may have here, and that I own I am sanguine enough to expect, which will make me amends for the want of many others, which is, if you will have the goodness to let me know sometimes that you are well, and that you have not quite forgot that perfect esteem and respect with which I am,

Yours, &c.

TO THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 299.)

Hague, July 13, 1728.

MADAM,

THE part which you do me the honour to say you took, both in my illness and my recovery, is too obliging for me to omit the very first opportunity of making you my acknowledgments for it; it has reconciled me to my own illness, for having caused such a declaration, and has added (if possible) to my concern for yours, for having hindered me from receiving it sooner.

To show you how desirous I am to contribute as much as I can to your perfect recovery, if you can find means to give me that offending head and that provoking face you complain so much of, I will most willingly send you mine in return by the first courier ; and though you say they are of no use to the present owner, I assure you they would be of singular use to me. The head should do my master's business, and the face should do my own, and I would find employment enough for them both, not to give them time to ache.

I find you wrong both my head and my heart extremely, when you think I can blame Lord Finch for his late exploit : * so far from it, that I envy him the glorious opportunity he has procured himself of sacrificing all to love. He has shewed the lady the strength of his passion by offering her an estate while he thought he had one ; she may now convince him of the strength of hers, by taking him without it : and I shall only blame them both if they do not think five hundred pounds a year a great deal more than enough, where there is such a fund of mutual love to subsist upon. I never heard of the happiest couple in Arcadia, or Arabia the blessed, that had half so good an income.

I am afraid your time hangs a good deal upon your hands at Richmond, by my being so frequently the

* Daniel, Lord Finch, afterwards Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, had, much against his father's wishes, contracted an engagement with Lady Fanny Fielding, whom he married accordingly next year. Mrs. Howard writes to Mr. Gay, June 15, 1728 :—" By what I have heard, Lord Nottingham has not only disinherited Lord Finch, in case he marries Lady Fanny Fielding, but has drawn the deed in such a manner (which he drew with his own hand) that when he dies, the profits of the estates are to be paid in to trustees, till either Lady Fanny is dead or married, or Lord Finch is married."

subject of your conversations; which I do not flatter myself can be owing to any thing but a great want of something else to do, and I doubt it would be my interest to wish you had some better employment, for I fear I often come off but scurvily. However, since I have put on the new man, I own I should not be sorry to assist, invisibly, at those conversations, to hear how the old one is treated. I shall be extremely obliged to you if you will, when it is finished, send me the anatomy and dissection of my late self, which I have been long so desirous to see that I had some thoughts of taking the opportunity of my late illness to have it given out that I was dead, and dead for love of —. Upon which I should have seen my own epitaph, elegy, life and character, &c. by Curll,* with many other particulars, which no man alive can hear of himself till he is dead. Some would have been astonished that I died for love, who might possibly have called my tenderness in question while alive; others would have wondered how it could be for love of that person, upon whose account they never in the least suspected me—which would indirectly be commending my discretion: in short, various and curious would the accounts have been that I should have had of my deceased self; but I was hindered from executing this design by my chaplain,† who is indeed a very good man, and who told me that mocking was catching, and death not a thing to be played with.

This place, though empty in comparison of what it is in the winter, is not yet without its recreations. I

* The piratical bookseller by whom the surreptitious edition of Pope's Letters was published, in 1727.

† Mr. Chenevix, afterwards Bishop of Waterford.

played at blind man's buff till past three this morning; we have music in the *Wood*; parties out of town; besides the constant amusements of quadrille and scandal, which flourish and abound. We have even attempted two or three balls, but with very moderate success; the ladies here being a little apt to quarrel with one another: insomuch, that before you can dance down three couple, it is highly probable that two of them are sat down in a huff. Upon these occasions I show the circumspection of a minister, and observe a strict neutrality; by which means I have hitherto escaped being engaged in a war.

I condole with Miss Meadows* for her disappointment in not having the gout; and I congratulate Miss Fitzwilliam whenever she returns from grass at Ampthill; I respect Lord Herbert† and Fop,‡ not without a due mixture of fear of both. I hope to hear soon of my Lord's having quarrelled with Pem§ upon his marrying some necessitous beauty for love; his lordship having given pregnant instances of all heroic virtues but love.

I do not know whether you will forgive this long and tedious letter: if you do, I beg you will let me know it soon; and if you do not, pray let me hear it

* The eldest of the maids of honour.

† Henry Lord Herbert, afterwards ninth Earl of Pembroke, was a Lord of the Bedchamber to George the Second, both as Prince of Wales and as King. He had a great taste for the arts, and in the words of Horace Walpole "the soul of Inigo Jones, who had been patronized by his ancestors, seemed still to hover over its favourite "Wilton." He died in January 1751, and in the following September his Countess was married again to N. L. Barnard, Esq., a Major of Dragoons.

‡ Lord Herbert's lap-dog.

§ Thomas, eighth Earl of Pembroke.

before it is long. For if you believe (as I am persuaded you do) that part of my thoughts at least are generally in England, you will do me the justice to believe too, that the greater share of them attend you, and consequently that nothing can be more welcome to that part of them that remains here than any marks of your friendship and remembrance.

I am with the utmost truth and respect, &c.

May I beg you to make my compliments to every body? Herbert ought to write to me.

TO THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 304.)

Hague, Aug. 13, 1728.

MADAM,

I KNOW I ought in good breeding to make you a great many apologies for the trouble I am going to give you; but as I think they generally rather increase than excuse the trouble, you will give me leave to proceed directly to my business in the plain Dutch way, without any preamble.

I have bought some china here (which was brought by the last East India ships that came in) of a very particular sort; its greatest merit is being entirely new; which in my mind may be almost as well as being undoubtedly old; and I have got all there was of it, which amounts to no more than a service for tea and chocolate, with a basin and ewer. They are of metal, enamelled inside and out with china of all colours. As I know the Queen loves china, I fancy she would like these; but it would not become me to take the

liberty of offering them to her Majesty; but if you think she would like them, I must beg you will be so good as to take the whole affair upon yourself, and manage it so that I may not seem impertinent. Were they not mere baubles, I could not presume to offer them to her Majesty at all; and as they are such, I am ashamed of doing it. However, if notwithstanding these difficulties, you command me to send them, I desire you will at the same time let me know where and to whom I must direct them.

The occurrences of this place, as I have had the honour of telling you before, are not interesting enough to inform you of: but as one thing has lately happened, in which I have been a principal actor, and have acquired some degree of reputation, I must trouble you with an account of it. You must know then, that last Sunday I treated the people here with an English christening, in my chapel, of a Black-a-Moor boy that I have; having had him first instructed fully in the Christian faith by my chaplain, and examined by myself. The behaviour of the young Christian was decent and exemplary, and he renounced his *likeness** with great devotion, to the infinite edification of a very numerous audience of both sexes. Though I have by these means got the reputation of a very good Christian; yet the more thrifty and frugal people here call my parts and economy a good deal in question for having put it out of my power ever to sell him.

The next remarkable thing here is, that I am at present over head and ears in mortar, and that I am building a room of fifty feet long, and thirty-four

* That is *the Devil*.

broad. Whether these are the right proportions or no, I must submit to you and Lord Herbert, who I hope will both be so good as to give me your sentiments upon it. It will, I am sure, have five great faults, which are five great windows, each of them big enough to admit intolerable light. However, such as it is, it will be handselled upon his Majesty's birthday next; at which time, if you will do me the honour to come there, and bring your own company, you will be extremely welcome. I believe you will think me extremely silly for building my tabernacle here; therefore I must tell you, in my own justification, that I had not one large room in my house before, either to eat, dance, or pray in, and that the building of this will cost me less than removing to another house would have done.

As I see in the news that the Duchess of Kent* is dead, I take it for granted the match between his Grace† and Miss Fitzwilliam is as good as concluded by this time. He will, without doubt, have a mind to perpetuate his title and estate; and I know nobody better able to contribute to so desirable an end than she: only I hope she will take care, both for his sake, her own, and that of so ancient a family, that the continuation of his family shall not be at the same time the continuation of his species.

Lady Albemarle‡ and Lady Sophia are expected

* Jemima Crewe, Duchess of Kent.

† "Henry Grey, only Duke of Kent of that family, married in 1729 "Lady Sophia Bentinck. He died in 1740. Lord Chesterfield's supposition of a match between him and Miss Fitzwilliam was a mere "pleasantry." Note to the Suffolk Letters.

‡ Isabella Gravemoor, a Dutch lady, married in 1701 the first Earl of Albemarle, who left her a widow in 1718. Lady Sophia, born in 1711, was their only daughter.

back here in about six weeks; at which time too, Lady Cadogan* and the Duchess of Richmond will return here from Spa: so that we shall have a sort of English assembly, which I believe will be at least as lively as the Dutch ones. Madame Creuning is at present at the top of the *beau-monde* here; and Mr. Creuning affords me a good deal of his company, as he promised me in England he would.

I should ask a great many pardons for having troubled you so long; but as you know I used to be accused in England (and I doubt pretty justly) of having a need for such a proportion of *talk* in a day, that is now changed into a need of such a proportion of *writing* in a day; and business falling short to-day, you are unfortunately afflicted with that share of writing which I could not so properly dispose of to the Secretary's Office. If this reason will not induce you to forgive me, I have a better, and a very true one; which is, the pleasure I always have in every opportunity of assuring you of the very great consideration and respect with which I have the honour to be, &c.

If I can be of any use to you here, especially in an Indian-house† way, I hope you will command me.

* Margareta Cecilia Munter, a Dutch lady, widow of the first Earl Cadogan, and mother of the Duchess of Richmond.

† "The shops in which curiosities of furniture and apparel were sold in London used to be so called, from the predominance of "Indian articles." Note to Suffolk Letters.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, August 31, N. S. 1728.

MY LORD,

I CANNOT omit returning your Lordship my thanks for the honour of your letter *apart*, of the 13th August, O. S. It gave me the utmost satisfaction to see the very friendly manner in which your Lordship not only forgave, but even approved, the liberty I had taken, and flatters me with the continuance of your friendship and protection, which I shall always be equally solicitous to deserve and proud to obtain. It is upon this friendship that I rely when I venture to make, and persuade myself your Lordship will (at least) pardon, the following request. By the death of the Duke of York* there are now two Garters vacant, that probably will not long remain so, and your Lordship knows by the former applications I have troubled you with on that score, how desirous and ambitious I am of that honour. Your Lordship knows too, that, though it is at all times a mark of honour and his Majesty's favour, yet it can never be of so much (or indeed of any real) use to me, as now, that I have the honour to be in the station I am in. In the first place, the thing itself is much more considered abroad than in England: in the second place, such a mark of favour is much more necessary for those who have the honour of being employed abroad, than for

* Ernest Augustus, a brother of George the First, was Bishop of Osnabruck and Duke of York and Albany. He died unmarried, August 14, 1728.

those who have the advantage of being at home ; and I am sure every body will agree that I can never have it so advantageously for myself, (especially in this country) as at a time when it must be known to be entirely owing to your Lordship's friendship and recommendation. It may possibly be owning a great weakness when I confess to your Lordship that I would rather have this one mark of his Majesty's and your favour than any one other thing that your Lordship can recommend to, or the King dispose of; but at the same time I hope it may in some measure excuse the great earnestness with which I beg leave to recommend this request to your protection, which, if it is possible any thing can, will add to the obligations I already have to your Lordship, and to the very great respect with which I have the honour to be, &c.

TO THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 326.)

[Hague] Oct. 21, 1728.

MADAM,

I HOPE I need not tell you, with how much satisfaction I received the honour of your last letter; I had heard of your illness from other hands, and I could not hear of your recovery so agreeably as from your own. I cannot help being very angry at your head for having given us both so much pain; were it like many heads I am acquainted with, I could easier forgive it; but since I am sure it knows how to behave itself better if it pleases, I confess I think this wilful misbehaviour is unpardonable. I have known some ladies' heads very troublesome to others, but at the

same time very easy to themselves ; yours is just the reverse, and only uses *you* ill. But however, as I would do justice to every body's head, and especially to yours, I do not know whether something may not be said in its defence ; your head plainly perceives that you are the only person in the world that does not value it, and so, from a resentment that I cannot say is entirely unjust, you are the only person in the world it uses ill. However angry you may be at it, pray commit it no more to the care of Mr. Cheselden,* whose ignorance has appeared to be very gross in both cases ; it is plain he does not know a head from a heart ; for in my dissection he took one for the other. Those thick coats he mentions were upon my head ; for as for a heart, it cannot be very well attested that there was none to be found ; and, moreover, the place where it should have been was so dried up, that it was believed the heart had been lost for some years.

I am extremely sensible of the great honour the Queen does me in accepting of the china I took the liberty to offer : I have sent it this day by a sloop, directed as you commanded, and under the care of Mr. Chardin, who goes to England. Her Majesty need not apprehend being bribed by me ; she is only to be bribed by merit, a bribe which it is not in my power to offer.

I must inform you that there is an extreme fine Chinese bed, window curtains, chairs, &c., to be sold for between 70*l*. and 80*l*. : if you should have a mind to it for Marble Hill, and can find any way of getting

* One of the most famous surgeons of his day. Pope's line records him :

"I'll do what Mead and Cheselden advise."

it over, I will with a great deal of pleasure obey your commands.

As it may possibly be thought extraordinary that I give no entertainment here upon his Majesty's coronation day, I must beg the favour of you, when you have an opportunity, to let drop in a proper place, that my house is yet so full of workmen, that I have not a room to dine in; I hope to make amends upon the birth-day. I am sure all I can do will not express the duty and gratitude I feel, not only for past marks of his Majesty's goodness, but for late assurances of fresh ones.

I hope the Chapter* at Windsor has had the desired effect as to Miss Fitzwilliam, though, with submission, I think she judged it wrong to put her hopes upon that day; for upon those occasions the performers expect to be admired themselves, and have not time to admire others. Methinks I see her, like a second Princess of Cleves,† suiting her knots and apparel to the colours of her much-loved Duke, but happier in being free from the prior but cruel engagements to a Prince of Cleves.

I am very sorry that Lord Herbert has been convinced by experience that herbs and water are not preservatives against a fever: if his friendship for Fop could prevail with him to follow his example at dinner and supper, I believe it would be better for him. The Duchess of Richmond, who arrived here last week, makes you a great many compliments: she is extremely well, and grown fat.

I would make you a great many excuses, if I knew

* Of the Garter.

† The heroine of Madame de la Fayette's novel.

how, for troubling you so long; but for want of them I must only beg you will forgive the tediousness, in favour of the esteem and respect of, Yours, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, November 30, N. S. 1728.

MY LORD,

I TROUBLE your Lordship with this letter *apart*, to inform you of the contents of a letter the Pensionary* received about a week ago from General Keppell, and which he communicated to me in the utmost confidence. Mr. Keppell tells him that the Queen of Prussia upon receiving the Queen of England's letter (of which your Lordship sent me a copy) was in such joy, that she immediately communicated it to him, together with all the steps that had been taken in that affair; that she had told him she was persuaded it would not only bring back the King to a right way of thinking, but even make him continue firm in it. He adds the greatest commendations imaginable of that Princess, and speaks of the match as a thing that he expects will be attended with the best consequences.†

After having talked over this affair with the Pensionary, he asked me whether what he had seen in the

* Simon Van Slingelandt, Pensionary of Holland, and one of the ablest statesmen of his day. See Lord Chesterfield's own character of him, vol. ii. p. 401, of this edition.

† These hints refer to the project of a marriage between Frederick Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal of Prussia, afterwards Margravine of Baireuth. A full account of this curious transaction is given by the lady herself in the first volume of her Memoirs.

newspapers was true, that the Prince of Orange was to have one of the vacant Garters. I told him I knew nothing of it, but that I thought it seemed natural enough, considering the regard the King had for that name and family, and that there had hardly ever been a Prince of Orange without it. He said that was very true, if people would but consider it rightly, but that he doubted they would draw other consequences from it, which might have an ill effect; that his coming here (which by the way is put off till Christmas, upon the account of the ill news of his Governor*) had already given an alarm which would be very much increased, if it were accompanied with that mark of the King's favour and distinction; that in the present situation of this Republic he did not know which was the most dangerous, to have a Stadtholder or not; that if the Stadtholder had not power sufficient to reform the abuses the Republic groaned under, he would be useless, and that if he had he might commit as many of his own: he concluded with saying that this was not a time to determine either way. Notwithstanding the confidence I live in with the Pensionary, I have always avoided any conversation with him upon the affair of the Stadtholder; being firmly convinced that he will be against one while there is any possibility of carrying on the Government without one;† and he had never spoke to me so much on that subject as in this conversation: however, I avoided entering into it upon this occasion by

* Monsieur Du Parc. The Prince of Orange was at this time only seventeen years of age.

† See Lord Chesterfield's further remarks and reports of conversations on this point; vol. ii. p. 401 of this edition.

saying that I was not enough informed of the nature of this Government to be able to judge whether a Stadtholder would prove advantageous or prejudicial to it, but that I was persuaded if the Prince of Orange had the Garter it was without any further view, and only as a mark of the consideration the King had for him and his family.

After this I went to M. de Linden and told him part of the conversation that had passed between the Pensionary and myself about the Prince's having the Garter, and asked his opinion upon it. He said he thought it highly improper that the Prince should have it, till other things were ready to go along with it; that he was sure it would give an unnecessary alarm, which might prove prejudicial to some things which are now secretly transacting in favour of that Prince here; and which I will inform your Lordship of more fully hereafter.

M. de Linden is the only person here to whom I ever speak upon this subject; he is both an honest and an able man, has the same fondness for the Prince that he could have were he his own son; and as he has the utmost confidence in me, and informs me of every step that is taken in that Prince's affairs, I can with great safety open myself to him whenever occasion shall require it.

I hope your Lordship will do me the justice to believe that I have no view of my own in submitting these considerations to your judgment. I shall neither have the Garter the more nor the less, the sooner nor the later, for the Prince of Orange's having it or not; but I thought myself obliged for his sake to lay this matter before your Lordship, that you may act in it

as you think proper. I own I have his interest a good deal at heart, and hope not to be altogether useless to him during my stay here.

Your Lordship will give me leave to take this opportunity of recommending myself again to your friendship and protection in an affair which I believe is yet pretty remote, but which probably will happen, which is this: If when the match shall be agreed upon between Prince Frederick and the Princess Royal of Prussia, an Ambassador is to be sent to Berlin upon that extraordinary occasion, that your Lordship will be so good as to recommend me to his Majesty's consideration upon that account, for which I ask no extraordinaries nor additional allowance; so that it will be a considerable saving to the King. I would not be mistaken and be thought to desire to quit this place, but as I take it for granted such a commission would be very short, it would require very little absence from hence.

After so long a letter I will not trouble your Lordship with any professions of my gratitude for the past marks of your friendship nor of my endeavours to deserve the continuance of it; I will only assure you that it is impossible to be with greater truth and respect

Your Lordship's, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Very private.

(Now first printed.)

(Hague) December 14, N. S. 1728.

MY LORD,

I CANNOT express how sensible I am of His Majesty's great goodness and the confidence he is pleased to show he has in me, by not only entrusting me with,

but even employing me in, an affair of such secrecy and importance as that contained in your Lordship's very private letter of the 29th November, O. S., which I have just now received.* I wish I were as able as I am desirous to execute his Majesty's commands to his satisfaction; but, sensible of my own inabilities, I must beg that his Majesty's indulgence will in favour of my known zeal for his service, excuse what may be wanting on my part, in the means of pursuing it.

I must more particularly beg your Lordship to solicit his Majesty's indulgence towards me upon this occasion, since I take the liberty of delaying to obey his Majesty's commands till I have first laid before your Lordship my reasons for so doing; and till I have received further instructions upon them.

I must inform your Lordship then in the first place, that I believe it is possible that some things might be communicated to the Pensionary in confidence, which he would not tell the Greffier;† but I am firmly persuaded there is no one thing in the world that could be communicated to the Greffier that he would not immediately tell the Pensionary; and therefore I submit it to your Lordship whether such a distinguished confidence in the one would not very much exasperate the other, when he should come to know it, which he certainly would immediately. The Pen-

* This affair was a project of marriage, and an overture to be made towards it, between the Prince of Orange, and Anne, Princess Royal of England. In 1784 the desired alliance took place.

† The post of *Greffier* in the Dutch Republic may be compared to that of Secretary of State in other countries. It was at this period most ably filled by M. Fagel, "who," says Lord Chesterfield himself, "had the deepest knowledge of business, and the soundest judgment, of any man I ever knew in my life." See vol. ii. p. 403 of this edition.

sionary is extremely averse to the thoughts of that match already, and I doubt this would make him much more so. In talking to me some time ago upon that subject, he told me he would much rather see the match made between Don Carlos and the Arch-Duchess,* than between the Princess Royal and the Prince of Orange. I must observe to your Lordship too, that the sentiments of the Pensionary and Greffier upon the affair of the Stadtholder are extremely changed since your Lordship has seen them; when they inclined to a Stadtholder, Mr. Slingelandt was then but Treasurer, and was opposed and thwarted by the then Pensionary in almost everything; but now that Mr. Slingelandt is Pensionary, and Messrs. Vander Haym and Teinhoven (both relations and creatures of the Greffier's) Treasurer and Secretary of State, the Pensionary and Greffier have the whole management of affairs in their own hands, and think they may lose, but cannot get, by a Stadtholder, and consequently while they can possibly carry on affairs without one, will, in my opinion, be as much against one, as any two people in the Republic. Should this opinion of mine be true, as I have a good deal of reason to believe it is, if I had communicated this affair to the Greffier, I am persuaded he would have given me no answer till he had first consulted the Pensionary upon it; and I am equally persuaded that they would both have done their utmost endeavours to prevent it; that match being considered by everybody, and with reason, as the sure forerunner of

* Don Carlos, son of the King of Spain, by his second marriage, and the Archduchess Maria Theresa, heiress of the Austrian monarchy.

the Stadtholdership. Your Lordship will now give me leave to acquaint you with what passed about a month ago between M. de Linden and myself, in conversation upon this subject. I asked M. de Linden when he thought there was any prospect of the Prince of Orange's being Stadtholder of the Province of Holland? He told me certainly not of two years at soonest; that it could not be attempted till he had taken his place in the Council of State as Stadtholder of Gueldres, which he could not do till next September, not being of age for that Province till then: I then asked him, whether in case a marriage that had been talked of for that Prince should take place, it would promote or obstruct his arriving at that dignity? He said it would certainly promote it; and indeed I think it is pretty clear that it will, from the dread that all the Anti-Stadtholder party have of that match; which would undoubtedly give spirit and vigour to all the Prince's friends, and extremely deject the opposite party. He told me afterwards in the utmost secrecy, that there was now a design carrying on of getting that Prince chosen Stadtholder of another Province; which would give him a majority of the Seven Provinces, and extremely facilitate his election in this; that the stroke was to be struck in March next; but that the whole depended upon the secrecy of the affair, and upon a little money properly distributed. Upon which I gave him some hopes, but no promises, that they might meet with some assistance from England as to the last particular. By all that I have been able to observe here, and I have omitted no opportunity of informing myself upon that subject, I think there is no reason to

doubt but that that Prince will inevitably be one day Stadtholder of this Province; but how soon, I believe it is impossible for any body to guess. The Army are nine in ten for him, and the common people unanimously so; his greatest enemies are the town of Amsterdam and the chief Burgomasters of the other towns, whose oppressions, rapines and extortions are now grown so flagrant and grievous, and daily increase so much, that they must, before it is very long, reduce the honest and thinking part of the Republic to fly to a Stadtholder as the only remedy. Or should that fail, the common people themselves, who groan under the oppressions and abuses of the magistrates, will by a general insurrection, impose one upon them. I know that a person in the Government has written to Sir Matthew Decker* to acquaint him, that should any steps be taken in favour of the Prince of Orange, that the town of Amsterdam, together with the Nobles and eleven other towns of this Province, would immediately declare the Prince of Nassau-Siegen Stadtholder; and possibly Sir Matthew may have acquainted your Lordship with this; but you need have no apprehensions of it, for I know it to be a poor artifice of Mr. Buys to deter the Prince of Orange's party from stirring in his favour, and it was wrote into England in the same view.

After having said all this, I don't know whether I may take the liberty of offering most humbly my poor opinion upon this affair; but I am persuaded that however erroneous it may be, your Lordship will

* An eminent merchant in London. See the Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 293.

at least do me the justice to believe it meant for his Majesty's service.

I should think therefore that if his Majesty is determined to give the Princess Royal to the Prince of Orange, it had better be communicated jointly to the Pensionary and Greffier, as a thing determined, than proposed to them as a thing doubtful; for upon the supposition I go upon, that they will both be extremely averse to it, they will be less offended if it be done without, than against, their consent. I submit it likewise to your Lordship, whether anything of the Stadtholdership should be mentioned to them or no; for I am sure it will startle them extremely, and whether it is mentioned or no, it will undoubtedly be sooner or later the necessary consequence of the match.

I ask a thousand pardons for presuming to communicate my poor thoughts upon this subject; and still more for not immediately executing his Majesty's orders: but I thought it my duty in an affair of this very great importance, to suggest to your Lordship's consideration everything that could occur to me; hoping that the little delay of this messenger's going and coming can be of no great consequence. I am sure it is impossible for anybody to have anything more at heart than I have the success of this affair, and however mistaken I may be now, I am sure of being set right by his Majesty's further orders, which I shall have from your Lordship by the return of this messenger.

I am with the greatest truth.*

* The conduct of Lord Chesterfield in this delicate transaction was in all respects satisfactory to his Court. "I received this morning," writes Lord Townshend, in reply, on December 6, O. S. 1728, "your

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

The Hague, January 11, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

LAST week a poor Frenchman of a good character, whose trade is writing and copying, brought me the inclosed papers, and gave me the following account of them. A gentleman, well dressed, and whom, by his speaking French very well he takes to be a Frenchman, came to him on Tuesday was sevensnight, in the afternoon, and bid him with all possible dispatch copy the paper No. 1, and that he would call again for it in an hour; the fellow, finding there was some mystery in it, took two copies, and kept one for himself. The man came back at the time appointed, gave the copyer a florin, and took away his letter in great haste, enjoining secrecy. When he was gone the copyer endeavoured to decypher the letter, which he easily did, the letters being only transposed, No. 2.*

"Excellency's very private and very instructive despatch of the 14th instant, N. S., which I immediately laid before the King, who read it with great attention and approbation, and has commanded me to let you know, that for the reasons you give, he entirely approves of your conduct in not communicating to the Greffier what you had orders to say to him."

* A la Haye, ce 28 Decembre, 1728.

MON CHER AMI,

DEPUIS huit jours que je suis arrivé ici de Bruxelles j'ai reçu deux lettres, l'une de Paris et l'autre de Soissons, par lesquelles on me confirme comme il n'y a rien de plus vrai qu'on a proposé au Roi de faire ensorte que Gibraltar fut surpris par les Espagnols en lui donnant une grosse somme d'argent, ceux-ci, ne voulant rien conclure sans la restitution de cette place, et que le Roi a tenu plusieurs conseils secrets sur cette affaire là. Cela me fait ressouvenir de plusieurs coups de langues qui m'ont été donnés à Soissons par le Maître d'Hotel de Monsieur de Bournonville; un jour il me dit que Gibraltar avoit coûté bien du

I immediately sent an agent to Rotterdam, to inquire who this John Cromwell might be. He informed me that he could hear of no such body as John Cromwell, but that there was one John Cranwell, Captain of a sloop, who went from thence for England about ten days ago, and who, I suppose, is the same person, the mistake between Cromwell and Cranwell being natural for a foreigner to make in an English name. The papers intended to be dispersed, I imagine, are concerning Gibraltar. This is all I have been able to find out of this affair, notwithstanding the most diligent inquiries I have been able to make. If your Lordship thinks it deserves any attention, you will easily find out this John Cranwell in the river, who will be able to inform your Lordship who that Jourdain mentioned in the paper is.

The Prince of Orange's coming here is put off for a fortnight longer, upon account of the illness of his governor, Mons. Du Parc, who is really very ill; but, as the Prince's enemies here have given out that this

monde aux Espagnols pendant le siège, mais qu'on sauroit bien trouver le secret de le ravoir sans qu'il en coûtât tant; exhortez nos bons amis des Communes à veiller sur cette affaire, et ne perdez pas du temps. Car cette place est trop importante à la nation, et tous ceux qui donneroient un pareil conseil au Roi mériteroient un châtimement exemplaire. Les billets seront bientôt imprimés, il y en a huit mille en trois langues. Le Capitaine Jean Cromvel m'a promis à Rotterdam de les passer et de les faire porter en toute sûreté chez le Sieur Jourdain suivant votre mémoire, mais il m'a demandé dix guineés; je suis sur mon départ pour Middelbourg, les affaires régleront mon retour, mais je ne crois pas de vous voir, avant la fin de Février; mes compliments je vous prie à tous nos bons amis sans oublier ma chère belle-sœur. Adieu, mon ami, je suis à mon ordinaire tout à vous.

P.S.—J'ai été voir à Amsterdam le marchand qui livra les armes au Sieur Jourdain il y a deux années, mais il ne veut pas les donner au même prix; je verrai ailleurs.

is only a feigned illness, and that the Prince dared not come, Monsieur de Linden and I have agreed that he shall come at all events in a fortnight; thinking it may be of ill consequence to let anybody suppose the least timidity on his part, or on the part of those who direct him.

General Keppell informed me, in confidence, that Monsieur Reichembach, the Prussian Agent at London, writes very impertinent and malicious accounts to his own Court, of that of England: of this your Lordship may find means to be better informed.

I am, with the greatest truth, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, February 15, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

I RECEIVED on Saturday, the honour of your Lordship's very secret letter of the 28th Jan., with the inclosed letter from Prince Eugene to Count Kinski, which I communicated in confidence to the Pensionary and Greffier, who desired me to return your Lordship their thanks for that communication.

Lady Portland* being sent for so suddenly into England, has raised various speculations here, and the more, because it happens unluckily, just at the time that the Prince of Orange is to come, who will be here

* Jane, daughter of Sir John Temple, of East Sheen, Bart., and widow since 1709, of William, first Earl of Portland. She had been Governess to the Princesses, daughters of George the Second.

next Thursday. I must upon this occasion take the liberty of suggesting to your Lordship, that although I am thoroughly convinced of Lady Portland's zeal and attachment for the Princess Royal, and of her good intentions for the Prince of Orange; yet her strict intimacy with Count Obdam and his family, from whom I am persuaded she conceals nothing, makes her a very improper person to be talked to upon that subject. This I only hint provisionally to your Lordship, not knowing nor inquiring upon what account she is really gone.

Since I have mentioned the Prince of Orange, I will trouble your Lordship with a short account of what has passed here concerning him, since I wrote last to your Lordship upon that subject. He was to have come here about three weeks ago, but the Pensionary desired M. de Linden that it might be put off till March, without giving any reason for that request. Upon which M. de Linden came and consulted me whether it should be complied with or no. I told him I thought it was necessary to please the Pensionary as much as possible, and to soften him at least (if he was not to be gained) by all imaginable deference to his opinion. M. de Linden accordingly went to Utrecht to put off the Prince's journey for six weeks; but while he was there I received a letter from Prince William of Hesse, wherein he told me he should come to the Hague the first week in March. As I thought it highly improper these two Princes should be here together, knowing very well the ill disposition of the uncle towards the nephew, I immediately wrote to M. de Linden to inform him of it, and to advise him to bring the Prince of Orange here time enough for him

to return, before the arrival of his uncle ; and to think of some excuse to make to the Pensionary upon that occasion. Upon this M. de Linden settled the Prince's journey here for Thursday next, the 17th instant, and returned here the next day, and excused it to the Pensionary, upon pretence that the Prince of Orange's house here was not big enough to hold him and his uncle at the same time. The Pensionary, to M. de Linden's great surprise, seemed not only satisfied, but pleased that the Prince was to come so soon ; which I can only ascribe to this—that as all his projects meet with very strong opposition in the Assembly of the States of Holland, and especially from the town of Amsterdam and the Anti-Stattholder party, he is not sorry to have the Prince of Orange here to frighten them with a little.

I mentioned to your Lordship some time ago, that measures were taking in a certain Province, to get the Prince declared Stadtholder ; that Province was Zealand, where there has been lately a considerable revolution in favour of the Stadtholder party, in the Magistracy of Flessingue and Tervere ; and I hope something more may be done in about two months' time.

I am, with the greatest truth, &c.

I hope I may depend upon those letters that I trouble your Lordship with, in my own hand, being kept secret.

To LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Extract in Maty's Memoirs, p. 118.)

Hague, February 18, 1729.

THE Prince of Orange* arrived here last night. I went to wait upon him, and, as far as I am able to judge from half an hour's conversation only, I think he has extreme good parts. He is perfectly well-bred, and civil to everybody, and with an ease and freedom that is seldom acquired but by a long knowledge of the world. His face is handsome; his shape is not so advantageous as could be wished, though not near so bad as I had heard it represented. The acclamations of the people were loud and universal. He assumes not the least dignity, but has all the affability and insinuation that is necessary for a person who would raise himself in a popular Government.

To LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, April 19, N.S. 1729.

MY LORD,

THE pressing solicitations of a very unfortunate young man, oblige me to give your Lordship this trouble. Mr. Maul, son to the Bishop of Cloyne in Ireland, who had the misfortune about a year ago to kill his own servant, has been in this country almost ever since I have been here; and, as he represents his

* William Charles Henry, Prince of Nassau and Orange, whose name frequently recurs in this Correspondence, was born in 1711, and married, March 25, 1734, Anne, Princess Royal of England. He died suddenly in 1751, and his widow in 1759. His only son and successor was born in 1748.

case to me, it is, I think, as compassionate a one as a thing of that kind can possibly be. The Bishop, his father, is now come to England to solicit in his behalf, and I suppose has by this time waited upon your Lordship for that purpose, and showed you those depositions and certificates, which, by his son's account, very much mitigate the case. I could not refuse him the justice of assuring your Lordship that his behaviour here carries with it all the marks of a sincere concern and repentance, even almost to a degree of despair, and that I verily believe him to be an object worthy of his Majesty's compassion.

I am with the very greatest truth, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, April 29, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

As the King's journey to Hanover now draws near, and as I take it for granted your Lordship will attend him there, you must give me leave to solicit, and to endeavour to secure, an honour and a pleasure that I am very desirous to obtain, which is, that if you take this place in your way (as I hope you will) you won't think of lodging in any other house than mine. The accommodation (I own) has little to tempt your Lordship, and the company less; but if, for so little a time, you will bear with some inconveniences, you will do the greatest honour to, and lay the highest obligation imaginable upon,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant.

To LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Extract in Maty's Memoirs, p. 116.)

Hague, July 26, 1729.

COUNT SINZENDORF, the Imperial Minister, left this place last Sunday morning, saying that he was going to see some of these provinces, and might possibly go to Spa, but with an air of great mystery, which has occasioned some speculation here; but, for my own part, as I know the gentleman, I do not believe the mystery is upon account of the journey, but I rather believe he takes the journey for the sake of the mystery!

To THE HON. MRS. HOWARD.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 347.)

Hague, July 26, 1729.

MADAM,

THE just apprehensions I had of being entirely forgot were agreeably removed by the honour of your letter of the 8th, and you have made me the only amends you could for so long an intermission of your correspondence.

The account you give me of Lord Herbert's journey to Paris is very satisfactory, and convinces me of the truth of a common observation; that little regard is to be had to history, especially to the causes generally assigned by historians for great events. I confess his Lordship's journey had raised my curiosity, as it did the speculations of all Europe, and has been variously accounted for; but the true reason has not been guessed. Some thought that he was ordered to go

and cruize in the Mediterranean till the arrival of the fleets; others thought he was sent to Paris, to show that in him alone we were able to fulfil all our engagements. For my own part, I (who am not apt to refine) concluded that the Court of France only desired to have him there in the absence of Bannières. In short, every one judged according to his hopes or his fears. But no doubt those Powers that were so apprehensive of his motions will think themselves very well off when they shall come to know that for this time his Lordship only meditates the destruction of tied wigs. I can tell him for his comfort, that there is not such a thing in France now as a tied wig, but they all wear either their own hair, or little wigs that they call *des bonnets*.

I assure you, you need not be alarmed at what Lord Albemarle and Mrs. Macartney are pleased to call my magnificence; for it is nothing like it, and only what is barely necessary: and as for the expense, I should be very sorry to be a gainer by this or any other employment that the King may ever think fit to give me. Whatever my actions may be, interest shall never be thought to influence them; and if I can procure any credit to my master or myself, at the expense, not only of what he allows me, but even of my own, I shall think it very well bestowed.

I find, by your account, that Kensington is not at present the seat of diversions. I wish we could find a way of joining companies, which might possibly prove to our mutual advantage; for the Hague is at present very empty, and we are reduced to two or three families. The women here have one way of animating the conversation, which perhaps might be

of use to you at Kensington, that is by quarrelling and scolding one another. We are about twenty that sup constantly together every night; and a supper never ends without a quarrel between two or three of the finest women there. If the maids of honour did not live in that perfect friendship that they do, you might have that amusement at Kensington too: but considering their union, it is not to be expected. I hope that during this interval of your diversions I may put in my claim for a part of your idle time; which, since it affords you no pleasure, I beg you will employ it in bestowing a very great one upon yours, &c.

I made your compliments to Lady Albemarle, who returns you a great many.

TO GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, July 29, N. S. 1729.

SIR,

I HAVE nothing worth troubling the Duke of Newcastle* with by this post, and I only write this to acquaint you that I am informed one Monsieur Pellnitz is gone into England, who has wrote a most scandalous book, entitled *l'Histoire de Cunegonde*, and which contains the whole life and history of his present Majesty's mother.† He had sold a copy of it

* The Duke of Newcastle was at this period colleague of Lord Townshend as second Secretary of State.

† Sophia Dorothea of Zell, the unhappy consort of George the First and mother of George the Second, had been for thirty-two years im-

to a bookseller at Amsterdam, which I immediately bought, notwithstanding he had assured me before that he would never publish it. I suppose if he is gone to England it is with a design of publishing it there, where he sees any thing may be printed with impunity. So that if you could find him out, it would not be amiss to seize his papers, amongst which, you would probably get the only copy he has left of it. If I could meet with the gentleman here, I should go a shorter way to work with him than you do with your libellers in England, and I believe the apprehensions of that have made him withdraw himself from here. He is nearly related to a Madame Pellnitz, who has been much known at Hanover, and he has at this time a brother in the King's service there, but he himself is in every respect a very great scoundrel.

I am, with great esteem, &c.

To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, August 5, N. S. 1729.

SIR,

I AM very much obliged to you for the assurances you give me of your friendship in your letter of the 22nd July, which I received yesterday by Crew, the messenger. I send you by Wiggs, the courier, Mr. Pellnitz's performance to give to the Duke of New-

mured in the castle of Ahlen. Her demeanour in early youth to Count Konigsmark, a Swedish nobleman on a visit to Hanover, was the motive, or at least the pretext, of her captivity. She died in November 1726, only a few months before her husband.

castle, since his Grace desires to see it. The manner of its being writ is not so blameable, as the stirring of the thing at all is in my mind improper. The author endeavours to shelter himself under the commendations he gives to his present Majesty; but that, I should think, is not sufficient to secure him from the censures he deserves for reviving an affair of that nature. I am extremely glad to hear of her Majesty perfect recovery; her lingering so long having given me great uneasiness.

I am, with perfect truth, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, August 23, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

MR. HOP* having wrote word here from Hanover that the King intended to stay a day or two at the Hague, in his way to England, both the States General and the States of Holland, begin to be in a bustle about the manner of his Majesty's reception. They take it for granted, and I believe with reason, that his Majesty will not lodge at the old Court, which belongs to the King of Prussia, as the late King did; wherefore they propose offering him Prince Maurice's house, which is the place where they receive ambassadors when they make a public entry. Another thing which they are very inquisitive about, is, whether his Majesty will notify his arrival publicly before-

* M. Hop was for many years the Dutch Minister at the Court of England. Lord Chesterfield has drawn his character in his letter to his son of June 23, 1752.

hand: if he does, a deputation must be sent him, both from the States General and the States of Holland, which always creates a quarrel between those two deputations, each insisting upon the precedence. In the late King's time, it even came to jostling and scurrilous language. I have been applied to, underhand, to inform them of all these particulars, to which I could give them no answer; but it is really necessary that they should know some time beforehand, they being extremely pleased with the thoughts of the King's coming here, and resolved to receive his Majesty with all possible marks of distinction and respect.

For my own part, I dare not think of offering the house I live in to the King. Your Lordship knows how unfit it is to receive him; besides, it is his Majesty's own already, and if he thinks fit to make use of it, he will command it; but if by chance his Majesty should choose to take up with so bad an accommodation, for the sake of avoiding a good deal of troublesome ceremony at Prince Maurice's, I believe I need not say how happy such an honour would make me.—It is impossible to be, with a more perfect truth and respect,

Your Lordship's, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, August 28, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship's goodness in receiving my particular applications to you, encourages me to repeat them, and makes me (it may be) but too troublesome. Most

of his Majesty's northern Ministers having obtained his leave to pay their duty to him at Hanover, I think I should be wanting to mine, if I did not endeavour to obtain the same honour, and most humbly ask his Majesty's gracious permission to do so too. But at the same time, however desirous I may be to throw myself at the feet of so gracious a master, I would by no means solicit that honour at the expense of neglecting my duty to his Majesty here. Insignificant as my presence is everywhere, yet, should there be any business or likelihood of it here, of which his Majesty is best judge, I would prefer my duty to my inclination, and not think of stirring from hence, nor of adding negligence to the many other imperfections that render me already but too unworthy of his Majesty's goodness to me.

I must therefore beg of your Lordship to mention this affair to his Majesty in whatever manner you think properest, and to let me know his Majesty's orders, which I shall always receive and obey with the utmost submission and satisfaction.—I have the honour to be, &c.

TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, October 7, N. S. 1729.

MY LORD,

WHEN I had the honour of seeing his Majesty at Helvoet Sluys, I had not time humbly to beg his permission to pay my duty to him in England some time this winter, where not only my own inclinations call me upon that account, but where also my own private

affairs render my presence very necessary. I must therefore beg of your Lordship to use your interest with his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give me leave to come to England for some time this winter.* It is now above a year and half that I have been here, and have not stirred one day from my post: so that I hope his Majesty will not think this request unreasonable; nor, indeed, have I any reason to suppose, that my presence anywhere can be of importance enough for his Majesty's service to suffer in the least by my absence from hence.

If upon the supposition that I shall obtain his Majesty's permission, I may take the liberty of mentioning the time, I could wish, for the sake of my own business, to be in England about the latter end of this month. If the King is pleased to grant me this request, it will add to the very many marks I have already so undeservedly received of his Majesty's goodness; if not, I shall submit to his orders with the utmost duty and resignation.

If I am troublesome with my frequent applications to your Lordship, you will, I hope, forgive me, when you do me the justice to believe the perfect attachment and inviolable truth and respect with which I have the honour, to be &c.

* According to Coxe, this permission was solicited by Lord Chesterfield at the secret suggestion of Lord Townshend. The object was to obtain the appointment of the former, as Secretary of State. But Sir Robert Walpole, jealous of such influence, resisted this scheme, and its failure was one main cause of Townshend's own resignation in May 1730. (*Memoirs of Walpole*, vol. i. p. 335, &c.)

A MONS^R. JACQUES DAYROLLES.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 5.)

à Londres, ce 5 Juin, V. S. 1730.

MONSIEUR,

JE suis très-sensible à la part que vous prenez aux bontés que le Roi a eu pour moi,[†] et je voudrois bien qu'elles me donnassent une occasion de vous témoigner, par des effets, la véritable amitié et considération que j'ai pour vous. Votre neveu, qui est très-digne de la tendresse que vous avez pour lui, peut compter sur mes services dans les occasions, et j'avois pensé à cette heure de le faire Secrétaire de l'Ambassade à Paris sous Mylord Waldegrave, qui est destiné à cette commission ; mais malheureusement le Duc de Newcastle avoit justement obtenu du roi cet emploi pour son parent,[‡] qui avoit été Secrétaire du Congrès à Soissons,[§] et qui y prétendoit comme de droit. Je ne

* Mr. James Dayrolles (a gentleman apparently of French extraction) had been for many years the King's *Resident* at the Hague. "In "him," says Dr. Maty, "the ambassador found a most useful assistant." (Memoirs, p. 100.) He died, as we shall see hereafter, in 1739; and his nephew and heir, Mr. Solomon Dayrolles, became Lord Chesterfield's constant friend and correspondent.

† Lord Chesterfield having returned to England, on leave of absence, according to the permission solicited in the last letter, had there received high and distinguished tokens of the Royal approbation. On May 18, 1730, he was elected a Knight of the Garter; he was installed as such at Windsor, on June 18, and on the following day he was moreover appointed Lord High Steward.

‡ Mr. Thomas Pelham.

§ A Congress had been opened at Soissons, in June, 1728, to put an end to the differences between the allies of the Treaty of Hanover (England, France, and Prussia) on the one side, and the allies of the Treaty of Vienna (Spain and Austria) on the other. The English plenipotentiaries to this Congress were William Stanhope, Stephen Poyntz, and Horace Walpole, and "although" as Coxe observes "nothing material was transacted, yet the negotiations were managed

manquerais pas de parler en faveur de votre neveu à Mylord Harrington, quoique je crois qu'il ne fera pas de changement dans le bureau; et d'ailleurs, s'il en faisoit, je sais qu'il a des jeunes gens qui lui appartiennent. Par rapport à la charge de Grand-Maître* que j'ai, il n'y a à ma disposition que des petits emplois, qui ne lui conviendroient nullement. Mais nous parlerons plus amplement de cette affaire quand j'aurai le plaisir de vous revoir à la Haye, ce qui arrivera bientôt;† en attendant, faites-moi la justice d'être persuadé que je suis plus que personne, votre, &c.

Ayez la bonté d'assurer Madame Dayrolles de mes très-humbles respects.

TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

(Mahon's History of England, Append. vol. ii. p. 72, second ed.)

Hague, September 15, 1730.

MY last letters from Berlin inform me that the King of Prussia had beaten the Princess Royal, his daughter, most unmercifully—dragged her about the room by the hair, kicking her in the belly and breast, till her cries alarmed the officer of the guards, who came in. She keeps her bed of the bruises she received. Twenty pence a day is allowed for the main-

“on the part of the Hanover allies in such a manner, as to create a “division between the Courts of Vienna and Madrid.” (Memoirs of Walpole, vol. i. p. 303.) Of this the fruits appeared by the Treaty of Seville.

* Lord High Steward of the Household.

† Lord Chesterfield returned to his post at the Hague, in the August following.

tenance of the Prince Royal in the Castle of Custrin; and the inquiry is carried on with rigour, under the direction of Monsieur Grumkow.*

TO LORD HARRINGTON.†

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 32.)

Hague, September 19, N.S. 1730.

MY LORD,

I WAS honoured by the last post with your Lordship's private letter of the 1st, N.S., by which I am sorry to find the resolution that seems to be taken about Mecklenburg. It appears to be no less than perpetuating the commission, at least for this Duke's life; for if he is too wild and extravagant at his age to be treated with at all, I presume he will hardly ever become more *traitable*. As to the dissatisfaction his Majesty expressed with relation to the Pensionary's ideas; I have justified him, and very truly, in my other letter to your Lordship by this post, for I really had not informed him of all his Majesty's de-

* The ill-treatment, by the King of Prussia, of his eldest son, (afterwards Frederick the Second) and of his eldest daughter (afterwards Margravine of Baireuth) is detailed at length in the Memoirs of the latter. It is also confirmed by Voltaire, who especially commemorates "une contusion à la Princesse au-dessous du teton gauche, qu'elle a conservée toute sa vie comme une marque des sentimens paternels, et qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de me montrer!"

† On the resignation of Townshend, and the ascendancy of Walpole in the Cabinet, the office of Secretary of State was conferred upon William Stanhope, lately created Lord Harrington. He was a kinsman of Lord Chesterfield, being descended from Sir John Stanhope, younger brother of the first Earl. From early life, he had served in Spain, first as a soldier, and next as a diplomatist. After holding the Seals of Secretary for many years, and being in 1741 promoted to an Earldom, Lord Harrington succeeded Lord Chesterfield in 1746 as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He died in 1756.

mands, thinking it improper, in the infancy of this affair, to frighten him with a catalogue of pretensions, that might make him consider the very thing I was employing him to transact as impracticable.

However, I look upon our negotiation with the Emperor as begun;* but I look upon it, too, as very far from being ended, and I foresee the many difficulties that will arise in the course of it. The King thinks the guarantee so great a concession, that it entitles him to ask anything or everything. The Emperor considers it in a different light; and, though desirous to obtain it, will not purchase it too dear. He knows it is almost as much our interest as his: he sees our situation with France, and he apprehends little from the concurrence of such jarring particles as our present

* To explain the state of foreign affairs at this period, and the aim of Lord Chesterfield's exertions, it must be observed that on the 9th of November 1729, a Treaty was signed at Seville, of peace and union, and mutual defence, between England, Spain and France. "This Treaty," says Coxe, "stipulated the introduction of six thousand Spaniards (instead of neutral troops, as specified by the Quadruple Alliance) into Tuscany, Parma and Placentia, for securing to Don Carlos the eventual succession to those Duchies, in case the reigning Sovereigns should die without issue male; and if the Emperor would not acquiesce, forcible means were to be used for effecting the introduction." (Memoirs of Walpole, vol. i. p. 303.) It was therefore a matter of first-rate importance to obtain the Emperor's acquiescence without recourse to arms; and the Hague, as a central and comparatively neutral post, became, in a considerable degree, the pivot for negotiations. King George was willing to guarantee the "Pragmatic Sanction," that is, the succession of the Austrian States to Maria Theresa, eldest daughter of the Emperor, but he expected, in return, a concession not only to the public demands called for the welfare of his kingdom, but also to various petty points in Mecklenburg and elsewhere, tending to the aggrandizement of his Electorate. It was amidst those complicated difficulties, caused both by friends and foes, that Lord Chesterfield's abilities for negotiation were long conspicuous and at last successful.

alliance is formed of. These difficulties, which to me are obvious ones, will certainly spin out the negotiation to a considerable length, though not break it off; for the good of it is, that when once begun, and the demands of England and the Republic meeting with little difficulty, as I am persuaded they will, it will be impossible to break it off, for the sake of some certain conditions that your Lordship and I know of. But as these difficulties will take up a good deal of time, and probably not be discussed here, or, if they were, as I am both unfit and unwilling to be concerned in them, I submit it to your Lordship, whether it is not time to think of a successor for me here, who will require some time to get ready, and who it may be proper should be here before I go. There is now a little more than three months to the sitting of the Parliament; and since I am to be back by that time, I confess I should be glad it were as soon as possible. I therefore beg your Lordship will mention this affair to the King, in what way you think properest, whether as from yourself or me.

It is with the utmost pleasure I reflect that I can address myself in this manner, at the same time to a friend and a minister, and subscribe myself with as much sincerity to the one as respect to the other, &c.

TO GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, Dec. 12, N. S. 1730.

SIR,

I BEG you will acquaint Lord Harrington that I don't answer his last letter *apart* in expectation of his next, that I may give him but one trouble.

I am sorry the answer from the Court of Vienna is not satisfactory at first, for I am persuaded it will be so at last, but it is asking too much of the Emperor to ask him to do what none of his family ever could do, *agir de bonne grace*. For my own part I see no other way of getting out of this scrape. I think it is pretty plain France will not help us out of it, at least, without drawing us into a worse. Monsieur Fénélon* takes immense pains to persuade the people here of *la droiture scrupuleuse*, as he calls it, of his Court, but to very little purpose. I know 'tis a bold word, but I really think him the silliest Minister in Europe.

The King of Prussia in the oath he prepared for the Prince to swallow, among many other things, has made him swear that he will never believe the doctrine of Predestination! A very unnecessary declaration in my mind for any body who has the misfortune of being acquainted with him to make, since he himself is a living proof of free-will, for Providence can never be supposed to have pre-ordained such a creature!

I find I shall have the pleasure of seeing you soon in England. Without pretending to be fatigued with business, I have had enough on't to desire no more, and to be very glad to be quiet in St. James's Square,† where I shall always have a pleasure in assuring you that I am with real esteem, &c.

* The French ambassador at the Hague, nephew and heir of the author of *Télémaque*.

† Lord Chesterfield's house in London.

TO DEAN SWIFT.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 371.)

Hague, Dec. 15, N. S. 1730.

SIR,

YOU need not have made any excuse to me for your solicitation: on the contrary, I am proud of being the first person, to whom you have thought it worth the while to apply since those changes, which, you say, drove you into distance and obscurity. I very well know the person you recommend to me, having lodged at his house a whole summer at Richmond. I have always heard a very good character of him, which alone would incline me to serve him; but your recommendation, I can assure you, will make me impatient to do it. However, that he may not again meet with the common fate of Court-suitors, nor I lie under the imputation of making Court-promises, I will exactly explain to you how far it is likely I may be able to serve him.

When first I had this office, I took the resolution of turning out nobody; so that I shall only have the disposal of those places that the death of the present possessors will procure me. Some old servants, that have served me long and faithfully, have obtained the promises of the first four or five vacancies; and the

* Dean Swift had written to Lord Chesterfield (November 10, 1730) recommending for some appointment in the office of Lord Steward "an honest man whose name is Launcelot." The answer of the Earl as here given, appeared evasive to the Dean, and he wrote again with some displeasure and much irony (January 5, 1731). Nevertheless, Lord Chesterfield was perfectly sincere in his good intentions, and very soon found an opportunity of providing for Mr. Launcelot. Swift's two letters may be seen in his Works, vol. xvii. p. 345 and 365, Scott's edition.

early solicitations of some of my particular friends have tied me down for about as many more. But, after having satisfied these engagements, I do assure you, Mr. Launcelot shall be my first care. I confess, his prospect is more remote than I could have wished it; but, as it is so remote, he will not have the uneasiness of a disappointment, if he gets nothing; and if he gets something, we shall both be pleased.

As for his political principles, I am in no manner of pain about them. Were he a Tory, I would venture to serve him, in the just expectation that, should I ever be charged with having preferred a Tory, the person, who was the author of my crime, would likewise be the author of my vindication.

I am, with real esteem, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 44.)

Hague, December 19, N.S. 1730.

MY LORD,

I AM in such a hurry to dispatch the courier to Vienna as soon as possible, that, had it not been for your Lordship's commands in your letter of the 4th (*apart*), I should have deferred giving you this trouble till next post. I confess I have my doubts about the success of our Vienna treaty, at least about the dispatch it will meet with there, and I am persuaded it will employ couriers some time longer. When I saw the plan transmitted to your Lordship by Mr. Robinson,* I was concerned to find it clogged with con-

* At that time British Minister at Vienna, in 1754 appointed Secretary of State, and in 1761, created Lord Grantham.

ditions which they could never imagine would be agreed to: such as the guarantee of Brunswick, the Duke of Holstein's affair, &c., and consequently seemed to be intended delays.

Prince Eugene's behaviour to Mr. Robinson would naturally give one hopes of success; but when I consider how much that gentleness is out of character, I own, I refine enough to suspect it. The treaty sent to Vienna, as far as it relates to England and the Republic, is such as the Emperor, I think, in prudence ought to agree to; but considering his haughtiness and obstinacy, and the knowledge he certainly has of the distrusts and jealousies among the Allies, I fear it is uncertain whether he will or no.

I hope Monsieur Dieden's* demands will not prove an obstruction to this affair; but I cannot comprehend what can be meant by an additional security of the King's Electoral dominions, which are already guaranteed over and over by all the powers upon earth, and by the whole empire, as being part of it; so that I suspect additional security to mean additional dominions, which can only be by dismembering Mecklenburg, upon a pretence of paying in that manner the expenses of the commission. And this, I think the Emperor never can, and the empire never will, consent to; it being a total subversion of all the fundamental laws of the empire.

I am very willing to stay here till this affair be determined one way or other, and the more so, because should the Emperor agree, I foresee there will be some difficulties in finishing here, where, from the nature

* The King's Minister at Vienna as Elector of Hanover.

of the government, every wrong head or heart has a right of opposition, and can do hurt, thought not good. I am, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 46.)

Hague, December 26, N.S. 1730.

MY LORD,

YOU will give me leave to trouble you with this letter, to ask your advice both as a minister and a friend. Mr. Finch* has writ me word, that he embarks next Monday in the yacht that is to attend me here ; and I propose making it wait till I have some answer from Vienna. If the treaty comes back signed, to be sure I will stay here till I have got the Republic into it. But supposing the answer should be doubtful and dilatory, and plainly show that at least it will take up a good deal more time, I beg both your advice and instructions what I should do in that case, which I am apt to think will exist. For having told Count Sincendorf, in general, that I had forwarded a courier to Vienna, who would one way or other determine affairs, in about three weeks time, he said, that let it be what it would that the courier carried, even though it were acceptable, yet he knew from the constant dull delays of his Court, that they would take at least a month to consider of anything final ; and that he hoped I should not look upon such a delay, so natural to the Imperial Court, as any design to amuse or gain time. I told

* The Hon. William Finch, son of Daniel, sixth Earl of Winchelsea, and appointed Envoy at the Hague, on Lord Chesterfield's intended return to his post at home as Lord Steward.

him I certainly should, and that, considering the crisis things were now in, it was impossible to see it in any other light. If Mr. Finch should come here before I have received an answer from Vienna, I shall not deliver my letters of revocation till I receive one; but if, when it comes, it should be such a one as I apprehend it will, your Lordship will be pleased to instruct me particularly what I ought to do.

I am very apprehensive that the King will have been displeased that I got nothing to send from hence by the courier to Vienna, but I really found it impossible to do it, with the least degree of security for the secret; and I hope your Lordship will contribute to excuse me to the King. I heartily wish this affair may succeed; for if it does not, I think we shall be in a very bad condition. The design of France, to do either nothing or too much, is now too plain to be doubted of, and the jealousies and distrusts among the Allies have taken too deep a root to be removed, with any prospect of future concert. And if the Emperor is obstinate enough to reduce us to return to France, after this jealousy, we shall be obliged to give them fatal pledges of our future fidelity.

I am persuaded there will be nothing ready for the meeting of the Parliament; for even should the Court of Vienna approve of the treaty in general, yet something or other always happens to retard the conclusion of such important affairs beyond the time one wished or proposed. If accidents don't happen, forms and ceremonies supply their place; and such a Court as that of Vienna will undoubtedly make some alterations in the treaty, were it only to say that they have not subscribed a treaty just as it was sent them. There-

fore, in my poor opinion, the Parliament should be put off as long as possible, because whatever his Majesty says at the opening of it will be of the utmost and nicest consequence. I am ever, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 47.)

Hague, January 2, N. S. 1731.

MY LORD,

I DOUBT I grow very troublesome to your Lordship with my letters *apart*, but I trust both to your patience and your friendship to excuse them. I received, by last post, a letter from Mr. Walpole, with an account of a very extraordinary one intercepted from Monsieur Hop here to his brother in England; and though whatever passes between the two Hops does, in my mind, deserve very little attention, yet as I know that very slight objects will sometimes make very strong impressions, I thought it necessary, for my own sake, to obviate with your Lordship any effects that this silly circumstance might possibly have with you or any body else.

I cannot conceive upon what Monsieur Hop founds his assertion of my being uneasy at being recalled, as he terms it, and of my attributing it to the ill-will of the two brothers, as he is familiarly pleased to call Sir Robert and Horace: I am sure not upon anything I have said to him, for I have conversed with him but once since his return from France, and that was only upon public affairs, and before I had obtained leave to come back; and it seems very surprising that a Min-

ister who has obtained leave to return to his own country should rather choose to have that return attributed to his disgrace, than to his favour, at his own Court. Foreign Ministers frequently pretend to be better than they really are; but, I believe, I should be the first that ever desired to be thought ill at his Court, that was really not so, as I hope I am not.

Your Lordship very well knows that, when I came back here last summer, it was declared by their Majesties, and understood by me and every body else, that I was to return for good and all, by the meeting of the Parliament; so that my writing to your Lordship lately upon that subject was only reminding you of a thing fixed, and not desiring any thing new when I came here. I told every body I should return to England after Christmas, and that the employment the King had done me the honour to give me required my attendance in England; so that my return was universally expected here, and is nothing new, nor can consequently be attributed to any of Monsieur Hop's surmises. If Monsieur Hop interprets my saying that I am personally sorry to leave this place, to be discontent, I cannot help it. It is true I have said that to every body here, and it is no more than what common civility, and even truth, requires from me. I have all the reason in the world personally to regret leaving this place, but that is no argument for my being discontented at my return.

As I suppose the King has seen this letter of Monsieur Hop's, I must desire your Lordship will be pleased to set this matter right with his Majesty, who would have very great reason to be offended, if he could believe that while on one side I beg his leave to

return, on the other I complain and am dissatisfied with obtaining it. I should be extremely sorry, at my return to England, to meet with any ill-will or suspicions; for I solemnly declare I shall bring none with me. I desire to live in friendship with all that are in his Majesty's service; it was upon that foot that I took the employment I have, and upon that foot only will I keep it. I am ever, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 77.)

Hague, January 16, N. S. 1731.

MY LORD,

I WAS extremely glad to find, by your Lordship's letter apart, that the trouble I had given both you and myself, about Monsieur Hop's intercepted letter, was unnecessary: and, indeed, I should never have thought it necessary to have taken the least notice of any of that gentleman's surmises, had I not found by Mr. Walpole's letter, that, at least, they had made some impression upon him.

Your Lordship will have seen by this time, from Mr. Robinson's letters, that I guessed pretty right as to our negotiation at Vienna, that it would still require couriers, and that Monsieur Dieden's demands would create the great difficulties; and this I find has exactly happened, though I am very sure the Court of Vienna was resolved to bring all possible facilities to Monsieur Dieden's demands. I should be wanting to the regard and friendship I profess for your Lordship,

if I did not lay before you the fatal, but natural, and even necessary consequences that will attend the breaking off of this negotiation upon Electoral points, in which you are more particularly concerned, as being in your department.

This negotiation is already known by many, and suspected by all; should it break off, we must be more in the power of France than ever, who then, knowing that we have no resource left, will use us as they think fit, and insist upon dangerous pledges of our future fidelity: we must either enter into all their destructive schemes, or at best continue a good while longer, in the disagreeable and unpopular situation we are at present in. But this is not the worst neither; for it is impossible that this negotiation, so far advanced, can now break off, without additional acrimony on both sides; and in that case it cannot be expected but that the Emperor will take the natural advantage of declaring to the nation and to this Republic, that the public tranquillity might have been restored, that he had agreed to all the points that related to England and this country, but that Electoral considerations only prevented the conclusion of so desirable a work, and plunged us into so dangerous a war. What effect this will have, I need not say; our enemies will tell us with pleasure. Nor can I answer that, when the Republic shall once know it, as they certainly will know it, they will not conclude a separate peace, or a neutrality upon any terms; such are their apprehensions of a war, and especially of this war. The Pensionary at first apprehended difficulties from these Electoral points, even without knowing them, and only from the outward aspect of affairs in that part of the

world, and he thought it would be impossible to adjust them by treaty ; but he hoped they would be referred to future negotiations, after the harmony between the two Courts should be restored, and that then the Emperor might connive at what he could not publicly authorise. But if the whole negotiation should break off, upon any or all of these Electoral points, I think it is impossible to describe the fatal consequences that must result from it, both to the King, the Ministry, and the nation.

I find, by the accounts from Berlin, that the King of Prussia is frightened out of his wits, if he ever had any, and wants to be friends with the King ; and for that reason desires a Minister may be sent there, which, in my opinion, should not be done ; for he takes every instance of complaisance to be an indication of fear, and grows insolent upon it ; whereas, if he is really frightened, as I believe he is, there is no imaginable meanness to which he will not stoop for his security ; and I should think it would be better to make him take some of those steps first, before he meets with the least return from his Majesty. Grumkow's* conversion, I hope, will be cultivated in a proper manner ; a sum of money will be well employed there, and put him too much in our power for him to go back.

I am ever, &c.

* Grumkow was the principal Minister of the King of Prussia ; he died in 1739. See Preuss, *Lebens-geschichte Friedrichs des Grossen*, vol. i. p. 61, ed. 1832.

To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, January 30, N.S. 1731.

SIR,

I RECEIVED yesterday the favour of your letter of the 15th O. S.

I believe you will by this time have been a good deal disappointed with the despatches that Gould brought, but I am apt to think this was the last attempt of the Court of Vienna, to see if they could make any advantage of the disunion they are no strangers to, among the Allies; and that when they find it will not succeed, they will yield. If Mr. Robinson had stuck firmer to the treaty, it would have been better, for complaisance spoils that Court and all others. The secret is now no longer one, and the negotiation is talked of everywhere, which increases the necessity of finishing the affair immediately one way or another. How it came out, I don't know but I am sure not from hence, where I own it has been better kept than I expected. If at last I should come back with an olive-branch, I doubt, it will not be before the spring is so far advanced, that I might bring a real one if I pleased! Pray make my compliments to Lord Harrington; I condole with him upon his gout, and am ever, &c.

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To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, February 2, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

THE post not being yet arrived, I have no letters to acknowledge from England, and I have nothing to write from hence, so I desire you will make my excuses and compliments to Lord Harrington.

I expect with impatience, the courier from England in his way to Vienna, and not without hopes that the Imperial Court will be wise enough to agree to what his Majesty shall finally resolve upon. As well as I can judge by Count Sinzendorf, this was a last attempt to try how far they could bring us, and how far France had reduced us to the necessity of being reconciled with them upon any terms; but when they shall receive the King's peremptory resolution and see the Addresses of both Houses of Parliament, which I hope will be as strong as possible, these considerations, together with the augmentation here, I flatter myself will make them think it their best way not to push our patience too far.

I give you many thanks for the pamphlet you sent me. It is well reasoned and clearly writ, but wants strength and spirit. They attack with invectives, and should be answered in the same manner, and we should not content ourselves with reasoning with enemies that fight with poisoned arrows; besides that, all reasoning is thrown away upon the people; they are utterly incapable of it.

I am, with great esteem, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 90.)

Hague, February 14, N. S. 1731.

MY LORD,

THOUGH my thoughts upon the treaty sent to Vienna, and upon the reception it will meet with there, very little deserve your Lordship's attention, yet since you command me to trouble you with them, I will tell you that I think the King has gone as far as he can well go, in this last treaty; and that if the Court of Vienna really intends to conclude, they cannot refuse this reasonable opportunity of doing it. But I confess, I very much apprehend the ill consequences that the death of the Duke of Parma and the memorial of Castelar* will have at that Court, that is so easily elated by any favourable incident. Castelar's memorial will give them just reason to expect the utmost confusion among the Allies of Seville, and may make them think the opportunity favourable of seizing the tempting morsels that the Duke of Parma's death presents them with. Upon the whole, I fear delays and chicanes, that will be as bad as a refusal. These inconveniences would have been all prevented, if we had taken these measures when I went to England last, and was charged by the Pensionary to recommend them in the strongest manner, which I did, though to no purpose.

* Don Baltazar Patiño, brother of the Spanish Prime Minister, had been created Marquis de Castelar. See his character in Coxe's *Memoirs of Spain*, ch. xxxii. He was at this period Spanish Ambassador at Paris, and had issued a declaration (January 29, 1731), that the king, his master, considered himself free from all the engagements contracted at Seville.

I am likewise far from being persuaded that our Electoral demands are made much more reasonable than they were. For why should not Mr. Hattorf have declared it to you, if they were? And by the way, I think there are some good reasons to suspect, that he is not very desirous to facilitate the conclusion of this treaty. If the Court of Vienna has really no mind to conclude, but to break off advantageously, they will certainly lay the whole stress upon the Hanover points, which they may easily do, every one of these points being at best but doubtful; and yet it is certain we shall not recede from them all. If that should happen to be the case, and that case become public, as it certainly will, we shall be in a fine situation! I am ever, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 91.)

Hague, February 16, 1731.

MY LORD,

COUNT SINZENDORF having sent me word yesterday morning, that his courier from Vienna was just arrived, and that he was going to forward him immediately to Count Kinski in England,* I went straight to Count Sinzendorf to see what this courier had brought him, besides what Mr. Robinson informed me of. As soon as I came in, Count Sinzendorf spoke to me in these words, with a great deal of surprise and concern: "You have kept the most mate-

* The Imperial Minister in England.

“rial point a secret from me, and never told me that
“this whole affair turns upon the King’s Electoral
“demands, which are such as it is not in the Em-
“peror’s power to comply with. The Emperor has
“showed the utmost facility in everything that con-
“cerned himself or depended upon him. He has
“given up the Ostend trade, by which the Nether-
“lands will be ruined; he has consented to the intro-
“duction of Spanish troops into Italy, by which all
“his possessions there will be in danger; and yet all
“this is to avail him nothing, unless he engages to do
“what is not in his power to perform, but depends
“upon the empire, and to which the empire never can
“nor will consent. The present King demands ten
“times more as Elector of Hanover than ever the late
“King did, and yet everything between England and
“the Emperor is to be deemed null and void, unless
“these impossible demands are complied with; as you
“will see by this declaration, of Mr. Robinson’s;” and
then he showed me a declaration of Mr. Robinson’s,
setting forth that “unless *tous les points Allemands*
“(those are the words) be settled to his Majesty’s
“entire satisfaction, every thing else *doit être censé*
“*nul*.”

I told him that the King having a German Minister at Vienna to transact those affairs, I was an utter stranger to them, and that, was I to know them, I was too ignorant of the laws and constitution of the empire to be able to judge how far they were consistent or inconsistent with them; but that I took it for granted impossibilities could not be asked. He said, yes, but they were; and ran into a long detail of the several demands; and then concluded by saying, that it was

to no purpose for the Emperor to explain himself so fully as otherwise he might have done, upon the points concerning England only, since they were to be of no effect, unless these impossibilities were granted at the same time.

As Count Kinski in England will receive the same accounts, I submit to your Lordship whether this can be done with any other view than that I have so long apprehended, of declaring to the world that the negotiation broke off only upon Electoral points. Whether it really breaks off upon these points or no, or whether for other reasons the Court of Vienna should have no mind to conclude it, and what effect this will have everywhere, but especially in England, I leave your Lordship to judge.

I inform your Lordship of this affair by this letter *apart* that you may make just what use you think fit of it. Count Sinzendorf showed me a letter from his father-in-law, wherein he expresses not only the desire, but the impatience of his Court, to conclude with the maritime powers. How sincere this is, a little time will now discover: I own I can form to myself no opinion of the event of this treaty. In good politics, I think the Emperor ought by all means to agree to it; but whether his ardent desire of the totality of Italy, joined to some seemingly favourable incidents for him at present, may not make him reject or delay it, which is in a manner the same thing, I cannot determine.

I am ever, &c.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 94.)

Hague, February 27, N. S. 1731.

MY LORD,

I RECEIVED last night the honour of your Lordship's letter *apart* of the 13th, by Browne, the messenger. I am very glad of the orders your Lordship says Mr. Robinson has to sign, abstractedly from the Electoral points, and Monsieur Dieden to refer them to a future negotiation, and I hope these orders will be executed, though I confess I have great doubts upon that affair: there are too many good reasons for and against the Court of Vienna's concluding the treaty, for me to judge which will prevail; but I am sure all reasons concur for us to hope for the conclusion of it.

If Mr. Finch is impatient to come here, I am sure I am not less so to return to England; and if he has a mind to take the trouble of bringing the Republic into the treaty of Vienna, in case it be concluded, I will most cheerfully resign to him both the trouble and the credit of doing it. I have staid here till now, not by choice, but by obedience; and I shall be gladder to see Mr. Finch here whenever he comes, than he can possibly be to come. The Cardinal's* mistake in the date of the full powers was too small a one not to give just suspicions that he had better information than he ought to have had.

I am ever, &c.

* Cardinal Fleury, at this time, Prime Minister in France.

To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, March 9, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

I RECEIVED on Wednesday last the favour of yours of the 19th past, O. S. As I have had no commands of late from Lord Harrington, and as nothing has occurred here worth mentioning, I shall not trouble his Lordship by this post.

The States received yesterday a courier from Paris, with letters from Mr. Vandermeer, of the 15th Feb., and Messrs. Van Hoey and Hugronie; but as those letters contain nothing but what you will have had directly from Mr. Keene* and Lord Waldegrave,† I will not trouble you with repeating any particulars of them.

It seems pretty difficult to determine which of the two ought to be most credited, the King of Spain or Monsieur Patiño.‡ His Catholic Majesty says one thing to the French Minister, Monsieur Patiño says just the contrary to ours, and assures us he is to be believed, and not the King. As the one does not know, and the other does not care, what he says, for my own part, I suspend my judgment. The Cardinal has declared to the Dutch Ministers that though our negotiation with Vienna is a violation of our treaties with France, yet he is not at all surprised at it, having never expected better from a nation that always sacri-

* Afterwards Sir Benjamin, and British Minister at the Court of Spain, during many years; an active and able public servant.

† Ambassador at Paris.

‡ Don Joseph Patiño was at this time the Minister highest in favour with the King, and, (what was still more essential) the Queen of Spain.

fices all considerations to their own interest. So that neither his Eminency nor I shall be in the least surprised, for I never expected better from him. I am, with great esteem, &c.

TO GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, March 27, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

HAVING received no commands from Lord Harrington by yesterday's post, I have nothing to write to him by this, so must desire you will make him my compliments and excuses.

I am very much surprised at not having yet received a courier from Vienna, and the more so, because Mr. Robinson by his letter of the 14th, acquaints me that everything was adjusted, and Friday the 16th fixed for signing.* Had the Treaty been then signed, I should have received it some days ago. I don't know what to ascribe this delay to, but the natural

* The treaty was signed on that day, and is usually called the second treaty of Vienna, to distinguish it from that which was concluded in 1725. According to Coxe's summary of its terms, "it was a defensive alliance, and stipulated a reciprocal guarantee of mutual rights and possessions; on the part of England, to guarantee the Emperor's succession, according to the Pragmatic Sanction; on that of the Emperor to abolish the Ostend Company and all trade to the East Indies from any one of the Austrian Netherlands, to secure the succession of Don Carlos to Parma and Tuscany, and not to oppose the introduction of Spanish garrisons. Thus was this great and difficult task of preventing a general war accomplished with an address and secrecy that reflected high honour on those who conducted it." (*Memoirs of Walpole*, vol. i. p. 346.) Lord Chesterfield tells us that in reality it was concluded between himself, the Pensionary, and Count Sinzendorf at the Hague. See vol. ii. p. 399 of this collection.

slowness and trifling of that Court, for I am convinced they are sincere in the main.

The French Ambassador here grows sullen and affects an indifference about the event of this negotiation, though every now and then he betrays his uneasiness at it. He has not mentioned it to me yet nor I to him. The conduct of Spain is too extraordinary, and I admire the frankness of their declarations, that they will have no regard to the ties of faith, honour or solemn treaties, but will join with the Devil if he will but do what they want. I own I credit these professions so much, that I am persuaded we shall soon see something come out of their separate negotiations with France.

I am with truth, &c.

P.S.—Having been solicited by many people here to procure them some tickets in the lottery if there should be one, I wish you would apply where it is proper, that I may be set down for one hundred.

TO DR. ARBUTHNOT.

(Extract in Mahon's History of England, vol. ii. p. 255, second ed.)

Hague, April 20, N.S. 1731.

I SHALL come over well prepared to suffer with patience, for I am now in the school of patience here; and I find treating with about two hundred sovereigns of different tempers and professions is as laborious as treating with one fine woman who is at least of two hundred minds in one day.

TO LORD HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, June 10, 1731.

MY LORD,

I FORWARD this courier to your Lordship with the melancholy account Captain Guydickens sends from Berlin.

I know from other hands, too, that the match with the Prince of Bareith will now be consummated, if his Majesty does not take the Princess Royal for the Prince of Wales without any other condition; but upon this nice subject I do not pretend to give any opinion, one way or another.

I am, &c.

TO GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, July 27, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

HAVING received no commands from Lord Harrington by this post, I will not trouble him with a letter, and, indeed, I am both weary and ashamed of sending him nothing from hence but ridiculous causes and useless complaints of delays. The province of Holland has not yet, in form, confirmed the act of concurrence, because the towns of Dort and Leyden had some notable scruple, which they wanted to consult their principals upon. However, the sentiments of Holland are enough known to point out to the

other provinces what they ought to do.* In two or three days Count Sinzendorf expects the arrival of his courier here, and with a satisfactory answer; if so, you may look upon the affair as done. It is impossible for any body, who is not very well acquainted with this form of government, to have a notion of the strange delays and absurd difficulties that have arisen in the course of this negotiation; but to give you some image of it, represent to yourself an English Minister endeavouring to carry a point by the single merit of the point itself, without the assistance of reward and punishments through what our patriots would call an independent and unbiassed House of Commons, that is, an assembly of people influenced by every thing but by the Court; and then judge how soon and how easily it would pass! This is the case of the Pensionary and Greffier; with this difference, too, that here unanimity is necessary. Without the power of either hopes or fears, they must labour to unite a great number of heads, many of them incapable of judging at all, and yet obstinately pretending to it; many of them incapable of judging right, but yet obstinate in the wrong; and others who always lay hold of such public occasions to extort private advantages for their towns, themselves, and their families. This being the nature of this government, it is rather to be wondered at that any thing is done here at all, than that it is long a doing. For my own part, if I would teach any body the Christian virtues of patience, forbearance, and long-suffering, I would send them to negotiate a treaty here!

I am, with great truth, &c.

* See this point more fully explained at vol. ii. p. 398 of this edition.

To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, September 11, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

I RETURN you my thanks for the favour of your letter of the 24th August, O. S.

When once our conferences begin here, I expect abundance of wrangling, ridiculous doubts, and absurd suspicions; but I think we shall at last get the better of them all. I have let fall some insinuations that I think begin to operate; they are extremely sensible of fear here, for which reason I have circulated some lessons that begin to have a good effect.

Madame Fénélon arrived here last week. She was sent by the Court of France to remove the suspicions her husband's drum had occasioned here. This example will, I believe, be a warning to married Ministers not to beat their drum rashly.

Count Golofkin is expected here every day from Paris, with the character of Ambassador Extraordinary. I should be glad to know whether his present Majesty, or the late King, have ever, by any Act, given the title of Emperor or Empress to the Czar or Czarina.

I am, with truth and esteem, &c.

To GEO. TILSON, ESQ.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, December 18, N. S. 1731.

SIR,

I RECEIVED yesterday the favour of your letter, of the 3rd, O. S.

I reckon our applications in favour of our distressed brethren of Salzburg* will have the common fate of such applications; of being received and not minded. All we can do for them at last, I believe, will be to pray for them.

I am sorry the Emperor's irresolution continues so long, that the courier is not yet come. The points in question are very worthy of the tradesmen that started them here; but, in my mind, are infinitely below the cares of a Prince and Ministry.

I am glad the Duke of Lorraine is to see the King of Prussia; for he will then see what he could never believe without seeing. He will find some difference between his reception in England, and his entertainment in the *corps de garde* of Berlin.

I am sorry I can be of no use to your friend Marquis du Quesne, but the contracts are made, as usual, for wine for the next year, and I have long been engaged to others in case of any alteration. I am still more sorry that I cannot serve your nephew, but the place you mention must be filled up by one who is versed in the accounts of the household, and is not an employment for any thing of a gentleman. Besides,

* The Protestants at Salzburg were at this period undergoing persecution from their sovereign, the Prince Archbishop.

I had before disposed of it to one Skinner, who had a sort of a right to it.

I am, with great esteem, &c.

TO THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.*

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 58.)

Scarborough, August 1733.

MADAM,

I HAVE heard that ladies often command, what they would be sorry to be obeyed in. I do not know whether your command to me to write to you from hence was not of that sort; however, I determined at all events to obey; for if you have really desired to hear from a very faithful servant of yours, I should have been very sorry to have omitted it; and if not, I have at once the excuse of obedience, and the pleasure of revenge, by taking you at your word.

* During the year and a-half which had elapsed since the date of the last letter in this collection, a most important change had occurred in Lord Chesterfield's life. Soon after his return to England, he had in common with several other holders of office, taken part against Sir Robert Walpole's famous Excise-Bill. So general was the resistance, that the Minister found it necessary on the 11th of April 1732, to give up his favourite scheme. But he resolved to proceed with the utmost rigour against its opponents. On the 13th of the same month, as Lord Chesterfield was going up the great stairs of St. James's Palace, he was summoned home to receive a message from the Duke of Grafton, and this message proved to be an order from the King to surrender his White Staff as Lord Steward. In like manner, Lords Bolton, Clinton, Stair and Marchmont were dismissed from other offices at Court, and the Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham, holding only commissions in the army, were deprived of their regiments. From this time forward, we find Lord Chesterfield in eager opposition against Walpole, leagued with Pulteney and Bolingbroke, and with his own partners in dismissal, especially Stair and Marchmont.

This preamble being finished, which (by the way) is generally the most difficult part of a letter, my difficulty begins, which is, what to say. Compliments you shall have none: they are sacred to falsehood, and would be profaned by sincerity; so that here is a great and luxuriant branch of epistolary commerce entirely cut off.

The next thing required in a letter is news; but as to that, I may with great truth make use of that short but comprehensive form of words of most letter-writers in the country to their friends in town,—which is, this place is so barren of news, and affords so few materials for a letter, that it would be but trespassing upon your patience, to trouble you with a long scroll from hence. However, you shall have the present state of Scarborough such as it is.

The ladies here are innumerable, and I really believe they all come for their healths, for they look very ill. The men of pleasure are Lord Carmichael,* Colonel Ligonier,† and the celebrated Tom Paget,‡ who attend upon the Duke of Argyle all day, and dance with the pretty ladies at night. Here are besides hundreds of Yorkshire beaux, who play the inferior parts, and, as it were, only tumble, while those three dance upon the high ropes of gallantry.

The grave people are mostly malignants, or, in ministerial language, notorious Jacobites, such as Lord Stair, Marchmont, Anglesea,§ and myself, not to mention many of the House of Commons of equal disaffection. Moreover Pulteney and Lord Carteret

* John, eldest son of the Earl of Hyndford.

† Afterwards Lord Ligonier and a Field Marshal.

‡ Probably General Thomas Paget, great-grandfather of the present Marquis of Anglesey. See a note to the Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 8.

§ Arthur Annesley, fifth Earl of Anglesea.

are expected here soon; so that if the Ministry do not make a plot of this meeting, it is plain they do not want one for this year.

The people of this town are at present in great consternation, upon a report they have heard from London, which, if true, they think will ruin them. I confess I do not believe it; not but that there is something probable enough in it. They are informed, that, considering the vast consumption of these waters, there is a design laid of *excising* them next Session; and moreover, that as bathing in the sea is become the general practice of both sexes, and as the Kings of England have always been allowed to be masters of the seas, every person so bathing shall be gauged, and pay so much per foot square as their cubical bulk amounts to. I own there are many objections to this scheme, which, no doubt, occur to you; but to be sure too there is one less than to the last, for this tax being singly upon water, it is evident it would be an ease to the landed interest, which it is as plain the other would not have been.

We have it here that the Prince of Orange does not come over. I can hardly believe it, but wish I knew whether it be so or no, for I should take my measures accordingly of coming to town.

I wish you may not think from all this stuff that these waters are apt to fly into one's head, which may discourage you from ever coming here, though I am persuaded they would do you a great deal of good; but, to convince you that at least they have done my head no hurt, I assure you no man living is with greater truth or esteem,

Madam, yours, &c.

I must not forget my compliments to Miss Hobart.* I make my compliments likewise to those who will open and peruse this letter before you do.†

TO THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 63.)

Scarborough, August 17, 1733.

MADAM,

THOUGH I doubted last time whether I had a justifiable excuse for troubling you, I am now sure that the honour of your letter has not only given me a fair pretence, but has even laid me under a very agreeable necessity of doing it.

There is hardly anything (though ever so valuable in itself) that may not receive some additional value from a certain concurrence of circumstances: this is the case of your letter, which, though I should at all times have valued as I ought, yet in this particular juncture I must look upon it as a most uncommon and uncourt-like piece of friendship and intrepidity. It may, for ought I know, have brought you within the statute of Edward III. as aiding, abetting, and comforting the King's enemies; for I can depose that it *comforted* me, and there are enough ready to depose that I am an enemy of the King's; so that, by an induction not very much strained for the law, your generosity has drawn you into high treason. Besides,

* Lady Suffolk's niece, Dorothy Hobart.

† In the correspondence of the most celebrated men of this period, as Bolingbroke, Swift, &c. it is remarkable how frequently apprehensions are expressed or implied of their letters being opened at the Post Office,

as to the contents of your letter, did you reflect upon the strict examinations it was to undergo before it reached me; did you consider that it was to be submitted to the penetration of Lord Lovell, and to the more slow, but not less sure sagacity of Mr. Carteret;* that from them a faithful copy of it was to be transmitted to others of not inferior abilities, and known dabs at finding out mysteries; and could you then hope that your allegory of commerce and cribbage could escape undiscovered, especially since the influence of the *pair royal*, and the advantage of the *knave*, at those games, give so obvious a key to it?

By what you intimate, the party will come over at a very convenient time for me, that is, as I suppose, about Michaelmas; by which time all my country excursions will, I hope, be over, and I quietly in my easy chair, by a good fire, in St. James's Square. I leave this place (thank God!) to-morrow, and go to Cobham's† for five or six days, where I shall diligently look for a certain busto that I heard much talked of there last year: if I meet with it, woe betide it; for we certainly shall not part without a distich or two. From thence I shall take London in my way to Norfolk, in which county I (though unworthy) shall presume to stay about a fortnight. Should I be seized there as contraband, I give you fair warning, I shall produce your letter as a passport.‡

* Thomas Lord Lovell and the Hon. Edward Carteret were at this time joint Post Masters-General.

† Stowe, then the seat of Lord Cobham, who intended to place Lady Suffolk's bust in his newly-built Temple of Friendship.

‡ An allusion to Sir Robert Walpole as his opponent, and to Lady Suffolk herself as his friend, both of them being natives of Norfolk.

Your Hampton Court recreations, I find, give the lie to those who complain of the uncertainty and instability of Courts, or must at least claim an exception for yours, since the same joyous measures have, for these sixteen revolving years, been steadily pursued without interruption. Commerce must surely have played its cards excellently well, to have kept its ground so long, or — the first courteous opener of this letter may insert the rest.

I do not think the Duke of Argyle very much the better for these waters; his head shakes extremely, and he is much dispirited. He goes away to-morrow too, and passes the rest of this year at Petersham.

I have not been so long in writing this letter as I have been trying, but in vain, to finish it with some ingenious paragraph, that should neatly introduce my being, with the utmost regard and attachment,

Madam, yours, &c.

P. S.—I am obliged in gratitude to repeat my compliments to Miss Hobart, as the only person that has blushed on my score these many years.

TO ALEXANDER, EARL OF MARCHMONT.*

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 2.)

London, October 5, 1733.

MY DEAR LORD,

I RECEIVED your letter of the 13th September by the post, and just now Lord Grange† has delivered to me that of the 29th August. I will not take up your time with any compliments to you upon the part you are so good as to take in whatever concerns me;‡ anything of that kind, I am persuaded, will be as unnecessary with you, as it is inconsistent with that real zeal and truth with which you know I belong to you.

I am glad the prospect of your elections is so good, but I hope it will not be bragged of. The Court should, if possible, be lulled into a security upon that score; and I could wish our friends would rather seem to despond than discover their strength, which the Court has always means in their hands to lessen when they once know where it is. The Ministry are exceedingly perplexed, both with their foreign and domestic affairs: their elections promise ill for them everywhere. The Duke of Newcastle will probably be

* Alexander, Earl of Marchmont, was born in 1675, and was Member in the Scottish Parliament for Berwickshire, when the Act of Union passed. In 1716, he was named British Minister at the Court of Copenhagen, and in 1725, one of the Ambassadors to the Congress of Cambray. He was now, like Lord Chesterfield, engaged in active opposition against Sir Robert Walpole.

† The Honourable James Erskine, brother to the Earl of Mar, who headed the rebellion of 1715; a Lord of Session.

‡ On the 5th of September in this year, Lord Chesterfield had married Melusina, in her own right Countess of Walsingham. See the Preface to this edition.

beaten in Sussex; the Duke of Dorset* most certainly will in Kent; and so of very many other places, where the Court used formerly always to carry it.

Their foreign affairs are still worse; the French are at last most certainly in earnest, and have lately concluded an offensive alliance with the King of Sardinia.† The Spanish armament is avowedly intended for Italy; and by this time, I believe, the French army has passed the Rhine. France, Spain, and the Emperor severally claim our guarantees, each asserting the other to be the aggressor. In this difficult situation the Ministers will, I believe, call the Parliament pretty early in November, in order to have their sanction for whatever part they take, and to have it supposed to be by the advice of Parliament—a point which very well deserves our consideration how to act in it.

In these circumstances, the Ministers, I think, cannot hold it long, unless they are again supported by those miracles that hitherto have been wrought in their favour upon every crisis.

I know very little of Lord Grange, who will give your Lordship this letter, and his general character is a very good one: however, I must acquaint you, that he has been frequently with the Ministers, and, I am informed, is by no means ill with Lord Isla.‡ You

* Lionel Cranfield, seventh Earl and first Duke of Dorset, was at this period Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

† These alarms refer to the short war produced by the death of the King of Poland, (February, 1733,) and the election of his successor.

‡ Lord Justice-General in 1710 for life; Keeper of the Privy Seal of Scotland in 1721; and of its Great Seal in 1733. He long managed the affairs of Scotland, and became Duke of Argyll by the death of his brother in 1743. The following epigram on his "Improve-

will make what use of this hint you think proper, either to try him more, or trust him less; but I beg you will not mention it as coming from me.

If the Parliament should meet before Christmas, I take it for granted you will be in town for the first meeting; but if it should not meet till the usual time after Christmas, I still think we ought all to be in town a fortnight or three weeks before, to take our measures together.

I am, with the greatest truth and respect, &c.

TO ALEXANDER, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 23.)

London, June 15, 1734.

MY DEAR LORD,

I RECEIVED the honour of your letter of the 8th, by the courier that arrived here last Thursday. Though it did not bring me the news I hoped for, it mentions Hounslow Heath" is among Lord Chesterfield's pieces of poetry: (p. 203, ed. 1778.)

"Old Isla, to show his fine delicate taste
"In improving his gardens purloined from the waste,
"Bid his gardener one day to open his views,
"By cutting a couple of grand avenues:
"No particular prospect his Lordship intended,
"But left it to chance how his walks should be ended.
"With transports of joy he beheld at one view-end,
"His favourite prospect, a church that was ruined!
"But alas! what a sight did the next view exhibit!
"At the end of the walk hung a rogue on a gibbet!
"He beheld it and wept, for it caused him to muse on,
"Full many a Campbell that died with his shoes on.
"All amazed and aghast at the ominous scene,
"He ordered it quick to be closed up again
"With a clump of Scotch fir by way of a screen!"

brought me the news I expected.* You had not the necessary arms for victory, for you had only justice of your side, which in Scotland, as well as here, is not alone sufficient. Lord Carteret, Mr. Pulteney, and myself, the only three of your friends now in town, have met and considered all the papers, upon which I refer you to Carteret's answer, that I may not trouble you with an unnecessary repetition of what you will have better from him: all I will say upon the subject is, that whatever you may think proper to do, and in whatever shape, I will support and labour to the utmost of my power. I should think it might be very possible to get some of the lowest of your venal Peers to come to our bar and confess the money they took to vote for the Court list—which, if it could be obtained, would be such strong evidence, as would be hard to be resisted. I am told there is a Lord —, that Duke Hamilton might possibly prevail with, and a Lord —, that the Duke of Montrose might persuade. If that were possible, it would be worth while to make them lusty promises, and even to give them some little money in present; for two witnesses who have actually taken money and voted for it, are worth ten who have only been offered and refused it.

You will likewise receive from other hands a thought that occurred to Pulteney, and which Carteret and I approved of, and which I am so fond of, that I cannot help mentioning it to you, however: it is, that some Scotch Commoner, well armed with facts and proofs, should get up in the House of Commons and impeach Isla of high crimes and misdemeanours, which no

* Of the Election of the Scots Representative Peers, and of Lord Marchmont's defeat on that occasion.

doubt the corrupt influencing of elections amounts to. This would be a capital stroke, and affect the master as well as the man, and I should think exceeding practicable, considering the open and impudent proceeding of that worthy Lord.

The elections of your Commons have gone better than I expected, and I take a particular part in the success of your family. I shall always be extremely desirous of showing Lord Polwarth* and Mr. Hume the esteem and regard they both so well deserve, and which, even if they did not, they would always find from me upon your account. You should certainly have your petition presented the very first day of the Session in our House, and be ready with all the proofs that are necessary to support it, as well as with all the circumstances that may conduce to blacken their cause; for, though I am sorry to say it, I fear you must expect more justice from your appeals to the rest of mankind, than from your appeals to our House, where now our strength is so much diminished, and by the loss of that part of it which, without any compliment to you, we could the least afford to spare.

Everything here is in the situation you left it. The President † is as contemptible and subservient as ever; Dorset, you may imagine, is so too; notwithstanding which, he is so ill at Court, that I verily believe, and I am sure I hope, that he will be laid aside with only his Wardenship of the Cinque Ports. Had people any spirit or honesty, now would be the time to exert it, for we have certainly two hundred and fifty in the

* Hugh Lord Polwarth and his twin brother Alexander Hume Campbell, sons of the Earl of Marchmont, first came into Parliament at the general election of 1784.

† Spencer, Earl of Wilmington.

House of Commons : which number, if well conducted and united, cannot long remain a minority.

I must not omit mentioning to you, that it will surely be very necessary for your Lords to attend and solicit your petition in town at the opening of the Parliament, for solicitations *vivâ voce*, and of the persons themselves concerned, have much more weight than remote applications by letter, or the intervention of friends. I really think this absolutely necessary, abstractedly from my own private wishes of seeing those people for whom I have the most sincere regard.

You see in the public newspapers all I know or can tell you in relation to foreign affairs. What the French will think fit to do after they have taken Philipsbourg,* I know no more than our Ministers ; but this I know, that they have it all in their hands, and may do whatever they please, for neither the wisdom of our councils nor the terror of our forces will check them in their career.

I forgot that this letter grows to an excessive length, while I am indulging the pleasure I have in conversing with you. You must excuse, however, the trouble you have, from that perfect esteem and regard with which I shall ever be, &c.

* Surrendered on the 18th July following to the French, under D'Asfeld, the Duke of Berwick, who commanded the siege, having been killed. Prince Eugene could not attempt to relieve the place on account of his inferiority of force.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 8.)

London, June 23, O. S. 1734.

MY DEAR CHEVALIER,

I WON'T make you any excuses for this application, because I am very sure you are always glad to help an old friend. My business is, in short, this: I want four dozen of shirts; two dozen of them to be of Holland that comes to about ten shillings the English ell; the other two dozen, about fourteen shillings the English ell. Take the money of Monsieur Vanneck, and give him a bill upon me for it. Though I have great regard for your judgment in most things, yet in linen I believe it will not be amiss, if you can get the assistance of Madame Dayrolles,† to whom I would not apply directly myself, because, knowing her politeness, I was sure it would be putting her to the trouble of an answer; which trouble I thought it civilier to save her by your means. I desire you will make my best compliments to her and your uncle, who, I hope, are both in perfect health.

Do you divert yourself pretty well at the Hague?

* Mr. Solomon Dayrolles was nephew of James Dayrolles, Esq., the King's Resident at the Hague, who died in 1739. He attained the same post in 1747, by Lord Chesterfield's influence; and he was afterwards Minister at Brussels, but for many years before his death he had come back to reside in England. On his appointment at the Hague, Horace Walpole, (ever caustic and often unjust) describes him as follows: "This curious Minister has always been a led-captain to the Dukes of Grafton and Richmond; used to be sent to auctions for them, and to walk in the Park with their daughters, and once went dry-nurse to Holland with them. He has belonged too a good deal to my Lord Chesterfield." (To Sir H. Mann, May 19, 1747.)

† Mr. Solomon Dayrolles's aunt.

Do the suppers and parties of pleasure go on in the Welderen family as they used to do? A friend of theirs and yours, Lady Denbigh, has had bad diversion here, for she has lost every thing she had in the world, which she had unfortunately left in her house at Twickenham.*

I hope you continue well with your uncle and aunt. The regard you have always had for them, I am sure, very well deserves their kindness, as their kindness to you deserves your acknowledgments; I wish you all the good that can happen to you, and am, with great truth and esteem, &c.

TO THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 81.)

Isleworth, July 15, 1734.

MADAM,

YOU will be surprised at this letter; but as I took it into my head that it might possibly be of use to one that both you and I interest ourselves for, I would not omit it.

My hero† is now entirely out of the question, for the place of Master of the Horse, and to my certain knowledge the Duke of Richmond‡ will soon be de-

* Lord Denbigh had lent to Monsieur de Chavigny, the French minister then in England, his house at Twickenham, which, during M. de Chavigny's occupation, was by some accident burnt down to the ground. He had married some years before a Dutch lady, Isabella, daughter of Peter de Yong, of Utrecht, who is described by Lady Mary W. Montagu, in 1725, as "entertaining enough,

"——— extremely gay,

"Loves music, company, and play."

(Letters, vol. ii. p. 172, ed. 1837.)

† Probably Lord Pembroke, "who is more than once in this correspondence called *the hero*. (Note to Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 74.)

‡ Charles, second Duke.

clared. This will be the second time that he will have been put by what every body has looked upon to be his right, for the sake of two people of such infinite consequence as Lord Godolphin* and the Duke of Richmond. And I will prophesy that this will not be the last time of his being served so, if he takes this patiently; I should therefore think it would be very right for him to renew his applications with vigour where he had made them before, and also to apply directly to the Queen, to whom, I am told, he has not yet mentioned it, and there to insist upon it as his right. I know very well this application will signify nothing as to the place of Master of the Horse, which is as good as given to the Duke of Richmond; but the effect I propose from it is, that his insisting strongly will convince those who cannot love but can fear, that he will resent it as strongly when it is disposed of to another, and make them think it necessary to satisfy him by something else; which they may easily do if they please, by taking away the gold key from that cypher, Lord Godolphin, and continuing him his pension, with which he will be as well satisfied, and sleep on the Court side. But this is what my hero can never expect to obtain from any motive but their fears, which will rise in proportion to his insisting upon it before it is given away, and to the resentment that he will show afterwards.

You will make what use you please of these thoughts of mine: you may either show them as mine, or hint them as your own, according as you approve of them, or think best as to him. All I desire is, that you will not mention me in this matter to any body but him.

* Francis, second Earl.

I am persuaded you will not think that I mean by this to exasperate him, in hope of getting him over to the Opposition ; for in my mind it would not be the way ; since I am convinced that this is the only way, and even a likely way of getting him to be Groom of the Stole ; whereas without this method they would go on to use him so ill, that we should be sure of him at last. I can assure you it is only my value and friendship for him that makes me suggest these means as the most likely to procure him what he would like, and what, with regard to the world, considering his rank and long services, he ought in decency to have.

I am, with the utmost truth and respect, &c.

Pray prevail with him to speak to the Queen herself, without which there is nothing to be done ; and to mention in that audience the manner in which he was put by for Lord Godolphin, and his own acquiescence at that time.

A M. SOLOMON DAYROLLES.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 11.)

à Londres, ce 19 Août, V. S. 1734.

MON CHER CHEVALIER,

J'AI reçu votre lettre, avec le compte y-joint. Monsieur Vanneck écrit par cet ordinaire à son frère à la Haye, de vous fournir tel argent que vous lui demanderez ; de sorte que vous prendrez pour payer la toile, la façon, &c. Je crois que le retour de Monsieur Finch pourra être une bonne occasion de les envoyer, car il revient ici bientôt.

Si vous pouviez persuader à votre oncle de solliciter

Mr. Walpole,* pour qu'il pût se démettre de son emploi en votre faveur, bien entendu qu'il recevrait lui tous les appointemens sa vie durant, cela vous l'assureroit en tout cas ; et Monsieur Walpole pourroit très facilement le moyennement, s'il vouloit. Car sans cette précaution, je crains ce Monsieur Pelham qui est avec lui, et qui ne manqueroit pas de s'y fourrer, en cas que votre oncle vint à manquer.

Si vous pouvez porter votre oncle à agréer cette proposition, qu'il fasse en sorte que Monsieur Van Borsele, et quelques-uns de la Régence, s'intéressent en votre faveur, auprès de Monsieur Walpole : car dans la conjoncture présente, il aura de grands égards pour la recommandation de ces messieurs.

Adieu, Chevalier. Craignez Dieu, divertissez-vous, et buvez frais autant que faire se pourra.

Je serai toujours, votre, &c.

TO ALEXANDER, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 41.)

London, August 27, 1734.

MY DEAR LORD,

As this courier carries you the three papers that contain the joint opinions of the Duke of Montrose,† Mr. Pulteney, and myself, which likewise concurred with Lord Carteret's, though we did not see him, and as you will receive at the same time letters from the

* Horace Walpole, the elder, brother of Sir Robert, and created, in 1756, Lord Walpole of Wolterton. He was now appointed to succeed Mr. Finch at the Hague, but with the rank of Ambassador.

† The Duke of Montrose had the Great Seal of Scotland, but was dismissed for opposing Sir Robert Walpole on the Excise-Bill in 1733.

Duke of Montrose and Pulteney, explaining our sentiments upon all points referred to us better and more fully than I am able to do it myself, there remains very little for me in this letter but to thank your Lordship for the honour of yours of the 12th, and to assure you very sincerely of the sense I shall always have of your friendship. However, you will give me leave to touch upon the three principal points contained in our joint papers, since I know that, at so great a distance, things can never be too fully explained or too often repeated. The advantage conversation gives one of debating, objecting, and replying, is wanted in writing, and must be supplied as well as one can.

The first point of taking up the matter of the election* originally in our House, without any application from your Lordships, is absolutely impossible; for you very well remember that, in our inquiries into the affairs of the South Sea, the strong objection of the Court was, that there was no application from any of the parties concerned, and therefore it was to be presumed that none of them were aggrieved: to which we replied, that the parties were too numerous to concert an application, and many of them, such as minors, orphans, &c., are not in circumstances to be able to do it, and that what was everybody's business was nobody's.

But in this case, the same objection of the Court would be much stronger, without admitting in any degree of the same reply; for here the parties are few, the method of complaint is pointed out by precedents, and even your own protests seem to imply a

* Of the Scots Representative Peers.

future application to Parliament. Suppose, for instance, one should try to take it up originally in our House, what would be the event of it? We should certainly be answered in the manner I have mentioned. The question would be put in two or three hours, which we should lose by a great majority, and the whole matter quashed at once, without any facts appearing to the public; whereas, upon a petition, whatever may be the main event of it, at least in the course of our proceedings upon it, those infamous practices will be laid open to all mankind, and condemned by everybody but the House.

As to the second point, the petition itself, though I am very far from expecting the effect from it I could wish,—I mean either that of changing the sixteen, or of vacating the election,—both which are certainly impossible, I still expect a good effect from it. It will lay open to the whole world, in an authentic manner, the whole scene of iniquity and corruption. It must fix upon Isla crimes that will beget questions of censure, from which he can only be acquitted by the scandalous partiality of a majority as corrupt as himself; and it will be necessary to accompany and assist the other step to be taken in the House of Commons. The petition, being conceived in the general terms in which we have drawn it, leaves us wholly at liberty to push those points only, which, from the evidence we have to support them, or, from the nature of circumstances at that time, may seem the likeliest to be brought to bear. Lord Tweeddale's* reasonings in his letter to the Duke of Montrose are unanswerable,

* John, fourth Marquis of Tweeddale. He was afterwards Secretary of State for Scotland.

and plainly prove, that no other fruit is to be hoped for from this petition than what I have mentioned. Evidence you certainly have not sufficient to set aside votes enough to give you a majority ; and our House is not at present of a complexion to vacate the election, because of some corrupt practices proved upon some of the electors. Our great hopes, then, arise from the third point,—the impeachment in the House of Commons. This step, taken there with vigour, the same day that your petition is lodged in our House, will strike both the agent and his master, and may have (as such unexpected steps often have) a greater effect than can be foreseen. There will certainly be evidence enough to fix the high crime of corruption upon Isla, though there is not enough to retrieve the mischiefs that have been occasioned by it. From the turn this takes in the House of Commons we must regulate our conduct as to the petition in our House. They must help one another ; and from one, or other, or both, I own I expect some good will arise.

What stand we can make this Session must be in the House of Commons, where we are much stronger than we were last Session ; our numbers are a good two hundred and forty, which, if well conducted, cannot, in my opinion, remain long a minority. In the House of Lords our strength is so much decreased, that we must wait for accidents and circumstances from without doors, before we can hope to do anything.

You see in the public newspapers the wretched situation of our foreign affairs, as well as I could inform you ; the Ministers, who, I am persuaded, are determined at all events not to engage in a war, are

labouring at all the Courts in Europe to bring on some negotiations, or something like a Congress, in order to hold out a fallacious prospect of peace at the opening of the new Parliament. But, I believe, their endeavours will be very ineffectual; for I cannot suppose that the Allies* will restore by treaty what they have got, or the Emperor yield what he has lost.

I am extremely glad to hear that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and others of our friends in town some time before the meeting of the Parliament; it is really very necessary that we should meet in time, and concert measures; besides that a matter of this nature should be countenanced by the appearance of as many of the persons concerned as possible.

I am ashamed of having troubled you so long, and, persuaded that you do me the justice to believe much more than I could say to you, will only add, that I am, &c.

May I beg my compliments to Lord Tweeddale and Lord Stair, when you see them?

TO THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 114.)

Bath, Nov. 2, 1734.

MADAM,

A GENERAL history of the Bath since you left it, together with the particular memoirs of Amoretto's†

* France, Spain, and Sardinia.

† The Hon. Robert Sawyer Herbert was second son of the eighth, and brother of the ninth, Earl of Pembroke. From the General Election of 1722, until his decease in 1769, he represented the Borough of Wilton in Parliament. He had married Mary, daughter of Speaker Smith, but left no issue.

life and conversation, are matters of too great importance to want any introduction. Therefore, without further preamble, I send you the very minutes, just as I have them down to help my own memory; the variety of events, and the time necessary to observe them, not having yet allowed me the leisure to put them in that style and order in which I propose they shall hereafter appear in public.

Oct. 27.—Little company appeared at the pump; those that were there drank the waters of affliction for the departure of Lady Suffolk and Mrs. Blount.* What was said of them both I need not tell you; for it was so obvious to those that said it, that it cannot be less so to those that deserve it. Amoretto went upon Lansdowne to evaporate his grief for the loss of his Parthenissa,† in memory of whom (and the wind being very cold into the bargain) he tied his handkerchief over his hat and looked very sadly.

In the evening the usual tea-table met at Lyndsey's the two principal persons excepted; who, it was hoped, were then got safe to Newbury. Amoretto's main action was at our table; but, episodically, he took pieces of bread and butter, and cups of tea, at about ten others. He laughed his way through the girls out of the long room into the little one, where he *tallied* till he swore, and swore till he went home, and probably some time afterwards.

The Countess of Burlington,‡ in the absence of her

* Martha (or, as more usually called, Patty) Blount is well known by the friendship and correspondence of Pope. A specimen of her own letters is given in the Suffolk Collection, vol. i. p. 233.

† Patty Blount.

‡ Lady Dorothy Savile, daughter and co-heir of the last Marquis of Halifax.

Royal Highness, held a circle at Hayes's, where she lost a favourite snuff-box, but unfortunately kept her temper.

Oct. 28.—Breakfast was at Lady Anne's, where Amoretto was with difficulty prevailed upon to eat and drink as much as he had a mind to. At night he was observed to be pleasant with the girls, and with less restraint than usual, which made some people surmise that he comforted himself for the loss of Lady Suffolk and Parthenissa, by the liberty and impunity their absence gave him.

Oct. 29.—Amoretto breakfasted incognito, but appeared at the ball in the evening, where he distinguished himself by his *bons mots*. He was particularly pleased to compare the two Miss Towardins, who are very short and were a dancing, to a couple of totums set a spinning. The justness and liveliness of this image struck Mr. Marriott to such a degree, that he begged leave of the author to put it off for his own, which was granted him. He declared afterwards, to several people, that Mr. Herbert beat the whole world at similes.

Oct. 30.—Being his Majesty's birthday, little company appeared in the morning, all being resolved to look well at night. Mr. Herbert dined at Mrs. Walter's with young Mr. Barnard, whom he rallied to death. Nash* gave a ball at Lyndsey's, where Mrs. Tate appeared for the first time, and was noticed by

* Richard Nash, commonly called Beau Nash, Master of the Ceremonies at Bath. On one occasion, when his full-length portrait was placed in the Rooms between the busts of Sir Isaac Newton and Pope, Lord Chesterfield addressed to him some lines which end as follows :

“Wisdom and Wit are little seen,

“But Folly at full length !”

Mr. Herbert; he wore his gold laced clothes on the occasion, and looked so fine, that, standing by chance in the middle of the dancers, he was taken by many at a distance for a gilt garland. He concluded his evening, as usual, with basset and blasphemy.

Oct. 31.—Amoretto breakfasted at Lady Anne's, where, being now more easy and familiar, he called for a half-peck loaf and a pound of butter—let off a great many ideas; and

* * * * *

The Countess of Burlington bespoke the play, as you may see by the inclosed original bill; the audience consisted of seventeen souls, of whom I made one.

Nov. 1.—Amoretto took a vomit in the morning, and then with a clear and excellent stomach dined with me, and went to the ball at night, where Mrs. Hamilton chiefly engrossed him.

Mrs. Jones gave Sir Humphrey Monoux* pain with Mr. Browne, which gave Sir Humphrey the tooth-ache, but Mr. Jones has since made up matters between them.

Nov. 2.—Circular letters were received here from *Miss* Secretary Russel, notifying the safe arrival at London with many interesting particulars, and with gracious assurances, of the continuance of a firm and sincere friendship. It would be as hard to say who received the strongest assurances, as it would be to determine who credited them the worst.

Mrs. Hamilton bespoke the play at night, which we all interested ourselves so much to fill, that there were

* Fourth Baronet of the name, and at this period, M.P. for Stockbridge.

as many people turned back as let in: it was so hot that the Countess of Burlington could not stay it out.

You now see, by this week's journal, how much you have lost by leaving the Bath so soon; at least I can assure you we feel what we lost by your leaving it before us. We are all disjointed, and so weary, that I have prevailed with my brother and Charles Stanhope* to start from hence with me on Tuesday se'n-night, which will just complete the two months I was ordered to stay. We set Mr. Herbert down at Highclere† in our way. This day fortnight I hope to have the pleasure of finding you at St. James's, much the better for the Bath; where, over a hot roll with Mrs. Blount, I propose giving you the next week's journal by word of mouth.

After having troubled you so long already, it is only in compliance to the form of letters that I add so unnecessary and so known a truth, as the assurance of the respect and attachment with which I am,

Madam, yours, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 13.)

à Londres, ce 3 Decembre, 1734.

MON CHER CHEVALIER,

JE reçois dans ce moment votre lettre; et le capitaine Brett m'a fait dire que dans deux ou trois jours

* Charles Stanhope was the elder brother of the first Earl of Harrington. He had been much connected with Lord Sunderland, and had thereby incurred the personal resentment of George the Second, who steadily refused in 1728, to appoint him to a Lordship of the Admiralty, or to any other post of honour and emolument. (Coxe's Walpole, vol. i. p. 300.) He died in 1760.

† Near Newbury; now the seat of the Earls of Carnarvon.

je recevrai les autres deux douzaines de chemises. Je suis très-content de celles que j'ai déjà, et je vous suis très-obligé de la peine que vous avez prise à ce sujet ; quoiqu'à dire la vérité, vû la bonté de la toile, et le bon marché, je crois en être redevable aux soins de Madame Dayrolles, à qui vous voudrez bien faire mes complimens et mes remercimens.

Vous dites que le mariage est un mal épidémique à la Haye ; prenez y donc bien garde, mon ami, et ne faites point de sottises. Aimez la princesse en question tant qu'il vous plaira, mais point d'un amour conjugal, s'il vous plait. Badinez, badinez ; mais restez en là. Un honnête homme aime bien une jolie personne ; mais ce n'est qu'un nigaud, qui l'épouse uniquement parcequ'elle est jolie.

Adieu, mon cher Chevalier ; je suis sur mon honneur très-véritablement

Votre, &c.

Mes complimens à votre oncle.

TO THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

(Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 161.)

Bath, November 14, 1737.

MADAM,

YOUR commands were too obliging not to be immediately and thankfully complied with, by one who would pay the most willing obedience to any you could lay upon him. If all Ladies and Kings (the great rulers of this world) would command in your way, how popular would their governments be with their subjects, and how easy to themselves ! At least I would advise Kings to practise it, as the only method they have left to revive passive obedience. You com-

manded me to do what I had most a mind to do myself; and what would otherwise have wanted an excuse has now the merit of obedience.

I must tell you, then, that the health you were so good as to interest yourself in, is as much mended in this one week as I expected I could be in the six weeks I am to stay here. I have recovered the stomach I had lost, am quite free from the complaints in my head, and have in a good degree regained my spirits, which, I am sure, must be entirely owing to the waters, and not to the company here; for though this place is very full, here are very few with whom I either am or desire to be acquainted. As for quality, we have the very flower of it in the august persons of the Duchesses of Norfolk* and Buckingham,† who, thank God, are well enough together to avoid the fatal disputes about rank, which might otherwise arise between the first Duchess of the Kingdom and a Princess of the Blood. Your kinswoman, the Duchess of Norfolk, had like the other day to have been the innocent cause of Mrs. Buckley's death. Mrs. Buckley was bathing in the Cross Bath, as she thought, in perfect security, when of a sudden her Grace, who is considerably increased

* Probably the Duchess Dowager, Mary Shireburne, remarried to Mr. Widdington. See a note to the Suffolk Letters, vol. ii. p. 162.

† The Duchess of Buckingham was daughter of James the Second, by Catherine, daughter of Sir Charles Sedley, created Countess of Dorchester. At the Revolution, Sir Charles, resenting the seduction of his daughter, joined the Prince of Orange and said ironically, "Since his Majesty has done me the honour of making *my* daughter a Countess, I cannot do less in return than endeavour to make *his* daughter a Queen!" On the other hand, the Duchess of Buckingham kept up a constant correspondence with *her dear brother*, the Pretender, at Rome, and on all occasions (as Lord Chesterfield intimates in this letter) affected the tone of a Princess of the Blood.

in bulk even since you saw her, came, and, like the great leviathan, raised the waters so high, that Mrs. Buckley's guide was obliged to hold her up in her arms to save her from drowning, and carry her about like a child.

You will, I am sure, expect from me *l'histoire amoureuse et galante* of Mr. Herbert; but I am very sorry, both for our sake and his, that it makes but a very small volume this year. He lies in bed till between ten and eleven, where he eats two breakfasts of strong broth; then rides till one or two; after which he dines commonly pretty plentifully with me, and concludes the evening at billiards and whist. He sometimes laughs with the girls, but with moderate success. He had distinguished at first Mrs. Earle, daughter-in-law to Giles Earle,* a very handsome woman, till a little man about half his height, one Mr. Harte, like a second David, had the impudence to attack, and the glory to defeat, him. Since which he has contented himself with a little general waggery, as occasion offers, such as snatching the bread and butter out of a girl's hands, and greasing her fingers and his own; taking away a cup of tea ready prepared for somebody else, and such other like indications of innocent mirth; but he is by no means established to his satisfaction, as when you were here.

For my own part, were it not for the comfort of returning health, I believe I should hang myself. I am so weary of sauntering about without knowing

* Giles Earle represented Chippenham and Malmesbury in several Parliaments, and from 1727 to 1741, was Chairman of the Committees in the House of Commons. A specimen of his correspondence is preserved in the Suffolk Letters, vol. i. p. 10.

what to do, or of playing at low play, which I hate, for the sake of avoiding deep play, which I love, that I look upon the remaining five weeks which I am to pass here as a sort of an eternity, and consider London as a remote land of promise, which God knows whether I shall ever get to or no; if I do, my first attention, as well as my greatest satisfaction, will be to assure you of the perfect truth and respect with which I am,

Madam, yours, &c.

May I beg my compliments to Mr. Berkeley and Miss Hobart, who, I hope, are both well.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 14.)

London, January 23, O. S. 1739.

DEAR CHEVALIER,

I MAKE you no compliments of condolence upon the death of your uncle; for, though I loved him very well, I love you better, and you are now easy and independent. I intended to have executed your commission to Lord Harrington; but I happened first to see Horace Walpole, who I thought might prove more serviceable to you in this affair, than the other: accordingly I spoke to him: and he told me he had received a letter from you to the same effect, and that he would take care of the whole affair. The only difficulty, he apprehended, was with relation to your plate, if it happened to be of foreign make. I told him that, as well as I remembered, it was English.

Pray take care to keep well with your aunt, who, I

am informed, has a good deal left in her own power. Tell me what disposition your uncle made, what you have got, what you intend to do, and when you come here ; for I interest myself really in whatever concerns you, and am sincerely,

Yours.

TO ALEXANDER, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 137.)

London, August 15, 1739.

MY DEAR LORD,

I RECEIVED your Lordship's and Lord Stair's letters the night before I left Tunbridge, from whence I returned here yesterday. As you desire my opinion upon the plan,* of which you sent me a copy, I will give it you as well as I have been able to form it in this short time, and without having any body to talk it over and consider it with ; submitting it, however, entirely to the opinions of the rest of our friends, and determined to act as they shall think fit to resolve. I extremely approve of the first part of it that relates to the House of Commons, both as a thing right in itself, and as a good example, which, I hope, may be followed by many counties, at least in England ; but, I confess, I have many doubts about the latter part, which relates to the House of Lords, and which is not necessarily connected with the other, so that the former may very well be put in practice, though this be not. The petition of the Lords would be no more than

* This plan, like the one referred to in the previous letter to Lord Marchmont of August 27, 1734, was to lay complaints before both Houses, of the alleged abuses in the election of the Scottish Representative Peers.

what was done at the beginning of this Parliament, and with many more favourable circumstances. The grievance was then recent, and talked of by everybody, the corrupt influence offered to be proved by witnesses of rank and credit; and yet you saw it did not shake one single man in our House. The elections of one or two since, though in truth nominations of the Court, cannot regularly appear to be so, since there was no opposition, and the election seemed at least to be unanimous. It is not to be doubted neither, but that there would be at the same time a counterpetition, or representation, (call it what you will) signed by a greater number of Lords than would sign yours, which would justify the House of Lords in whatever censure they might have a mind to pass upon yours. Besides, would it not be natural enough to ask this question: "Why now this is neither immediately after a past grievance, nor immediately before a new one of the same kind is apprehended?" And I really think, such an application would come much more properly towards the end of the last session of this Parliament. Another circumstance, which I think has some weight, is, that the Duke of Argyle is not yet ripe for a measure of this kind, and I dare say will not come into it, though very probably some time hence he may. Lords Aberdeen* and Tweeddale, it seems, already declare against it, and you very well know who amongst us will do the same here, which would certainly damp it a good deal; though, I own, that alone would not be a reason for laying it aside, if it were otherwise proper at this time.

* William, second Earl of Aberdeen; he died in 1746, and was grandfather of the present Earl.

This, my dear Lord, is my present opinion, of which, however, I am fully diffident, and consequently not tenacious. I shall act in it as the majority of you all determine; for as we all mean the same thing, I will always concur with those measures which shall be agreed upon by those who mean as well, and can judge much better than myself. I beg you will make my compliments to my Lord Stair, to whom I do not write, knowing that my writing to you is the same thing, and thinking that he may possibly be further off.

I am, with the greatest truth and attachment,
My dear Lord, &c.

TO THE EARL OF STAIR.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 375.)

London, September 3, 1739.

MY LORD,

By the return of the messenger, by whom I received the favour of your letter, with the inclosed papers, I writ to Lord Marchmont my poor sentiments upon the points in question. I thought it the same as writing to you; but chose to direct it rather to him, because the messenger told me, he should see him first. I shall say no more now, by the common

* John, second Earl of Stair. During a long and active life (1673 to 1747) he filled several great employments both political and military; thus he was appointed Ambassador to Paris in 1715, and Commander-in-chief, under the King, of the army at Dettingen. His turbulent temper, however, frequently embroiled him with the Court, and at the date of this letter, he was among the most vehement opponents of Sir Robert Walpole.

post, upon that subject, than that I thought the first part of the plan extremely right; but the latter part rather ill-timed now, and would not have the effect proposed or hoped for.—What do you say to the vigour of our Administration? The sleeping lion is roused; and a hundred and twenty men of war now in commission, and forty thousand land-forces in England, will show our enemies abroad, that they have presumed too much and too long upon Sir Robert's pacific temper. I say this on the supposition and hopes that these land-forces are only raised against our common enemies abroad, and not against Sir Robert's enemies at home; though I know which I believe. It is reported too, but I don't know on what grounds, that this Parliament is this Session to be continued seven years longer, upon pretence that, in this time of danger, the nation is not in a proper temper to meet and choose new representatives.* Violent as this step may seem, I cannot think it is totally improbable, when I combine several circumstances; but this I know, that, if it is taken, there is an end of us, I mean constitutionally. Your visit to Ireland is a sign of your good health and spirits, which I rejoice at, and wish you the long continuance of, as much as any man upon earth can do, being, I am sure, as much as any man on earth can be,

My dear Lord, &c.

* This report was wholly groundless. .

TO THE EARL OF STAIR.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 376.)

London, December 3, 1739.

MY DEAR LORD,

SINCE I troubled you last, I have three letters from you to acknowledge. As to the two first, you will have heard from all your friends here that the D(uke) of A(rgyle) is by no means as yet ripe to come into any of those propositions. I both think and hope he will by next year; but, in the mean time, he must be stroked and not spurred. The plan inclosed in your letter, which I received yesterday, is, in my opinion, a perfect right one, and is now followed by many corporations in England, in their instructions to their members; and ought to have been so by all the counties, if those who at the end of last Session of Parliament undertook that province, had not either carelessly or wilfully neglected it till the assizes were over, which has now made it impossible for this year. The Bill, to limit the number of placemen in Parliament, is to be brought in after the holidays, and will, I suppose, be as soon rejected; after which, it will be necessary to print the names of those who voted for or against it; and then fresh instructions from every county or borough, both in England and Scotland, wherever they can be obtained, and, I believe, they may from almost every county and a great majority of the boroughs, will come with still greater weight next year. As for postponing the money-bills till such a bill be agreed to, which is what you propose, and what is likewise mentioned in the instructions of the city of London, I find that will not do; because, to tell you

the plain truth, many of the Opposition do not in their hearts greatly relish the place-bill itself, which they think might prove a clog upon their own Administration, and they will by no means hear of any thing like a tack, or a postponing of the money-bills. If the whole Opposition meant the same thing as you and I do, they would most certainly entertain this measure, which is the only one that can recover the constitution; all others are but temporary palliatives: for while the Houses of Lords and Commons are absolutely in the power of the Crown, as they visibly now are, we have no constitution, and the Crown alone is, without a mystery, the three branches of the Legislature. But unfortunately, I doubt, this is what many people desire as heartily as you and I wish the contrary. Sir Robert's health is thought to be very precarious,* and there are many of us who already anticipate in their thoughts the joyful moment, which they think not remote, of coming into power; and consequently, far from desiring to make shackles for themselves, are rather willing to continue those upon the people which Sir Robert has forged for them. This, I own, is a melancholy case; but I fear it is too much the case. The persons you allude to, that you

* This surmise had more truth than is usual in Opposition rumours. The health of Walpole was gradually sinking beneath his laborious public duties. In the autumn of 1741, he was "in great danger" from an ague and dysentery (Walpole's Letters, vol. i. p. 76, ed. 1840), and on the 19th of October, in that year, his son Horace writes in confidence, as follows, to Mr. Mann, at Florence: "He who was asleep as soon as his head touched the pillow, now never sleeps above an hour without waking, and he, who at dinner, always forgot he was Minister, and was more gay and thoughtless than all his company, now sits without speaking, and with his eyes fixed for an hour together. Judge if this is the Sir Robert you knew!"

think might be prevailed with to act against Sir Robert, are not to be moved. They have been tried, and their own interest in so doing has been manifestly shown them, but to no purpose. They consider money as their only interest, and would not venture the suspension of a quarter's salary, to save the whole nation. This, my dear Lord, is our wretched situation, from whence, I think, little good can arise. Union among ourselves cannot be expected, where our views are so widely different. This Sir Robert knows, and triumphs in. I despair of either doing good or seeing any done; yet, while I live, I assure you, I will endeavour it. I wish my country well, and upon that principle alone must wish you so; but many other considerations concur to make me honour and esteem you as I do, and to form that attachment and friendship with which I shall ever be,

My dear Lord, &c.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 223.)

London, February 15, 1740.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I THANK you for both your letters. I would have acknowledged your former sooner; but partly business, and partly dispiritedness, hindered me.

* The Rev. Richard Chenevix was of French extraction, his parents having left their native country on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. His first patron was Lord Scarborough, by whom he was recommended to Lord Chesterfield as his Chaplain in Holland. In 1745, Lord Chesterfield's influence as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, raised him (as we shall see more fully in the sequel) to the Bishoprick first of Killaloe and then of Waterford. Dr. Chenevix always retained a grateful sense of Lord Chesterfield's kindness, and continued his regular correspondent until his death.

We have both lost a good friend in Scarborough;* nobody can replace him to me; I wish I could replace him to you; but, as things stand, I see no great hopes of it.

As for the living of Southwark, I would not advise you to expect it; for Sir Robert Walpole, I am persuaded, will never let you have it. He carries his resentment to the highest degree, even against the memory of one,† who was but too long his friend, and too little a while his enemy. However, when it becomes vacant, I would have you renew your application for it.

I am, with great truth, &c.

TO THE EARL OF STAIR.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 379.)

(May 1740.)

MY DEAR LORD,

I WISH I had anything better than thanks to return you for your several letters; but, unfortunately, I can send you no accounts from hence, that I can write or you read with satisfaction. The Opposition is, in truth, become no Opposition at all—is looked upon already in that light by the Court, and, I am afraid, will soon be so by the whole nation. The views of the individuals are too different for them to draw to-

* Richard, second Earl of Scarborough, had been called to the House of Lords by writ, in 1715, during his father's life, and appointed one of the Gentlemen of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second. On the 29th of January, 1740, in a moment of mental alienation, he put a period to his own existence. He was one of the earliest and dearest friends of Lord Chesterfield, who has paid, in the *Characters*, an affecting tribute to his worth.

† Lord Scarborough.

gether. Some few mean the public good, and they are for acting and pushing of constitutional measures ; but many more mean only their private interest, and they think public inaction and secret negotiations the most conducive to it. They consider Sir Robert's life as a bad one, and desire, by their submission and tameness, to recommend themselves to be his successors. The Court, they say, is too strong to be overcome by opposition : that is, in truth, they think it would be too strong for their impatience for power upon any terms. In this distracted state of the Opposition, you will not be surprised that nothing is done, and that the Court triumphs. Those of your friends here, with whom I am connected, wish, as I do, many things which it is not in our power to bring about, and which would only discover our weakness to attempt. My only hopes are from the spirit of the nation in the next election, where, if we exert, I think, there are hopes of having a better Parliament than this. In your part of the kingdom more may be done with effect in that affair than in this part, where the influence of the Court is more powerful ; and I hope, therefore, you will all exert in that last struggle for our constitution. We are to have here next week a general meeting, to settle the elections for the next Parliament, in which, I make no doubt, but those who have ruined the Opposition will use their endeavours to frustrate this design too ; but still I hope it will have some good effect, though to be sure not so good a one as if we all meant the same thing. The Place Bill comes in on Tuesday next, and will be thrown out the same day. Some of our patriots will rant that day, *par manière d'acquit*, by permission from the

Court, and then the Session is ended! I showed your paper upon that subject to some of my friends, who will endeavour to make what use they can of it.

Your old friend Lord Cathcart* kissed the King's hand yesterday, for the command of the intended expedition. Some say it is against Cuba; others, against Buenos Ayres; but none know, and the secret is inviolably kept. For my own part, wherever it is intended, I have a very bad opinion of the success of it,† when I know that nobody capable of forming a right plan has been consulted in it, and that no officer able to conduct it is well enough at Court to be employed in it.

As I have writ all this to you *à cœur ouvert*, I beg it may go no farther, it being better that the real wretched state of the Opposition should not be universally known, though, I fear, it is but too well guessed at. It might discourage, and could do no good.

If all meant as well as you do, I should, with more hopes and better spirits, take what little part I am able; but I confess that, in the present situation of things, I rather content myself with not doing ill, than hope to do any good. I will keep my conscience and my character clear, wish what I should, and do what I can; *et pour le reste, alors comme alors*. But

* Charles, eighth Lord Cathcart. He had been appointed to the command of the land-forces in this expedition, but died at sea, after only a few days' illness, December 20, 1740.

† At the same period, (June 3, 1746) Pulteney writes as follows to Swift: "In all probability nothing will be done. I have not the least notion that even our expedition under Lord Cathcart is intended to 'be sent anywhere.'" (Swift's Works, vol. xix. p. 322, ed. 1814.) In fact, however, the attack was made on Carthagená, but without success.

in all situations, pleased and proud of being reckoned in the number of those who love and value you as you deserve, and who wish you in a condition of doing your country all the good you are both so desirous and so able to do it! Adieu, my dear Lord.

Believe me, &c.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.*

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 237.)

London, September 6, 1740.

MY DEAR LORD,

As I am persuaded that you are convinced of the truth of my regard and friendship for you, I look upon myself as authorised to give you this trouble, without any further excuse for it. The sincere part I take in everything that relates to you has made me hear with the utmost concern of your uneasiness, not to say despondency, at the two† misfortunes which so

* Early in 1740, Alexander, Earl of Marchmont, had died and been succeeded by his eldest son, Hugh Lord Polwarth; "that valuable or "rather invaluable young man," as Bolingbroke in one of his letters calls him. Thus the young Earl had lost his seat in the House of Commons, without (as a Scottish Peer) acquiring any in the House of Lords. It appears, however, by his curious Diary published in 1831, that he continued, though out of Parliament, to take an active interest in politics. It was not till 1750, that he was elected one of the Sixteen Representative Peers; and in 1764, he was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland. In the House of Lords, however, he made no efforts to maintain the high reputation for oratory which he had gained in the Commons. He survived till January 1794, when he died in the eighty-ninth year of his age, at his seat, near Hemel Hempstead, in Hertfordshire.

† The deaths of his father, and of his friend Sir William Wyndham. "What a star has our Minister," writes Bolingbroke, "Wyndham "dead, Marchmont disabled! The loss of Marchmont and Wyndham "to our country!"

soon after one another concurred to affect not only you, but your friends, and all the friends to the public. Your grief, I own, is just; I feel it with you; but give me leave to say your despair would be blameable, and would be adding another misfortune to the former little less sensible to your friends or your country.

I know I am an improper instrument of comfort to you upon this occasion, since I cannot think of our late friend* without too much grief of my own to be able to lessen yours. I have lost a friend, whom I could equally depend upon, both in public and in private life—one who, by his directions and advice, supplied my want of knowledge and experience, and to whose honest heart I could without reserve open my own. How much the public has lost, I need not, I cannot say; but that very consideration ought to prevail with all those who are friends, and particularly with all those who, like you, can be useful friends to it, not to forsake the care of it. The more you and our late friend are missed, in the House of Commons particularly, the more your assistance is wanted out of it; and would you, by withdrawing yourself from business, add to the joy of those who have shamelessly rejoiced at the cause of our grief? There are some friends of yours, who think and wish as you do, but who, without your assistance and advice, can be at best but inefficient well-wishers, though with it, they may be able to check, or disturb at least, the dirty mercenary schemes of pretended patriots or avowed profligates; for my own part I protest to you, that without your assistance and instructions I shall give

* Sir William Wyndham.

myself no manner of trouble, because I know it would be to no manner of purpose. I do not mean to compliment you; I hope and believe, you do not suspect me of it; where compliments are deserved, they lose their odious name by becoming truths; and where they are not deserved, I scorn to give them; therefore, my dear Lord, believe it as a truth, that your presence, and your taking a part in business, is absolutely necessary towards doing any good; and as such, give me leave to add, that it is a moral and necessary duty incumbent upon you, and from which no private consideration can dispense you. If you ask me, what prospect, or what possibility, there is of doing any good, I must answer, in truth very little prospect, but still a possibility. The chapter of accidents at least is open; and even death, which has hitherto been very partial, may at last prove just. Events, however remote or improbable, are to be attended to; and it is in some degree criminal to withdraw one's self from the possibility of improving them.

I ask pardon for troubling you with these reflections, which your own good head and heart must have better suggested to you, if your grief had given them leave; let me only add this interested request of my own, to that I have already made you for the public, which is, that I may have some share of that friendship, which you so justly gave entire to our late friend. I am sensible, how little my sincere attachment and regard for you can replace his; but believe me, my dear Lord, it is as real; and I am, as much as man can be, &c.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 220.)

Tuesday.

MY DEAR LORD,

I SHARE the marks of your friendship to Mr. Pitt,* looking upon everything that concerns him as personal to myself. I have not yet had an opportunity of speaking to him upon that subject, and when I have, I shall break it gently, knowing his delicacy; but, in the mean time, pray encourage her Grace in so right and generous a resolution. You shall soon be troubled with a letter or a visit from me upon this matter; in the mean time, I can assure you, I want nobody's recommendation to continue those sentiments of esteem and friendship with which I have so long been, and ever shall be most faithfully, yours.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 248.)

London, April 24, 1741.

MY DEAR LORD,

A FAVOURABLE opportunity tempts me to do what I had a great mind to, and to lay it upon the opportunity. Mr. Hume's† going to Scotland makes me trouble you with this letter, which will consequently get to you unopened, though very possibly you would

* William Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham. "Her Grace," referred to in this letter, was Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, and the "right and generous resolution" was to bequeath Mr. Pitt 10,000*l.*, which she did accordingly. Lord Chesterfield received another legacy of 20,000*l.*, and the reversion of the Wimbledon estate.

† Alexander Hume (Campbell), Lord Marchmont's twin brother.

not have escaped one, had he not gone; for as no distance can remove you from my thoughts, it is not likely that it could protect you from my letters.

You have heard in general (to be sure) of what happened in both Houses upon the Vote of Credit;* but I believe, you may be glad to know more particulars. Pulteney gave up the point at once with alacrity in the House of Commons, seconded by your friend Sandys,† who went still further than he, to make his Court upon the tender point of Hanover. The next day the King's speech was to be considered in our House, when, before the meeting of the House, Carteret‡ came up to the Duke of Argyle and myself, and said to us, "you heard what was done in the "House of Commons yesterday; we shall do the same "here to-day." We answered, that we had not the least intention of doing the same, for that we should certainly oppose the motion; at which he seemed concerned and surprised. Accordingly the Duke of Argyle threw the first stone at the motion for the Address, and I, the second and last; then Carteret opened himself with all the zeal and heart of a convert, or an apostate, which you please, if a man can

* This vote was for 300,000*l.* in support of the Pragmatic Sanction, and as a subsidy to the Queen of Hungary against the King of Prussia. It passed the Commons without a division, but in the Lords there appeared twenty-five Non-Contents against seventy-six Contents. Lord Chesterfield's account of the debate (in which a brilliant part was borne by himself) may be compared with Bishop Secker's in the Parliamentary History, vol. xii. p. 150.

† Mr. Samuel Sandys, who had been M.P. for Worcester, since 1717. On the 18th of February, in this year, he had moved an Address to the Crown, for the dismissal of Sir Robert Walpole.

‡ John, Lord Carteret, afterwards on his mother's death, Earl Granville. A most able sketch both of him and his confederate at this period, Pulteney, is given by Lord Chesterfield among his *Characters*.

be called either, who has no religion at all. We divided the House, not so much to show our own strength, which we knew, but his weakness; and indeed it appeared upon the division, that he left us *lui troisième et demi* only, that is, himself, Winchelsea, Roxburgh, and Berkeley of Stratton, who will not always go with him; the others who left us, such as Northampton, and Oxford, doing it visibly upon other considerations. His Royal Highness* behaved sillily upon this occasion, making Lords North and Darnley vote against us; such was the power of the *natale solum*. This has hurt him much in the public. Our opposition in the House of Lords had like to have spirited up one in the House of Commons in the Committee, in which Pulteney would have been brought to the same trial as his friend Carteret, and, I dare say, would have acted in the same manner; but I prevented, though with difficulty, that opposition, because I plainly saw, that it would be almost only a Tory Opposition, and that Pulteney would have carried two-thirds of the Whigs present along with him; a triumph which I thought it better he should not have at the end of this Parliament. Let his triumph, or his mortification, whichever circumstances may then produce, begin with the next Parliament; we are resolved to bring it to the trial, that is, in the supposition that it be worth while to do anything at all, which I much doubt. Your friend, the Duchess of Marlborough, has in your absence employed me as your substitute; and I have brought Mr. Hooke† and

* Frederick Prince of Wales.

† "The Conduct of the Duchess of Marlborough," written by Hooke, the historian, under her direction, was published in 1742.

her together, and having done that will leave the rest to them, not caring to meddle myself in an affair, which, I am sure, will not turn out at last to her satisfaction, though I hope, and believe, it will be to his advantage.

I propose setting out for Aix-la-Chapelle in about a fortnight, from thence to Spa, till the beginning of August, and then to take a tour for the autumn at least, if not longer, in France. If about that time you propose being at Bolingbroke's, I will contrive my affairs so as to meet you there; otherwise I shall take D'Argeville,* as it may be most suitable to my plan of rambling in that country. I tell you truly, what I have told to nobody else, that unless the prospect here mends extremely, I shall not be in haste to return, but will make a considerable stay in a country, that will do me a great deal of good, at a time when I can do no country any good at all. The languor and dispiritedness, that have made life burthensome to me all this winter, require a better climate, and more dissipation than I can find here;† and I think it is better conversing with the cheerful, natural-born slaves of France, than with the sullen, venal, voluntary ones of England. But as I shall still be glad to hear from those here, who still wish to be free, let me sometimes, my dear Lord, hear from you. While you are

* Lord Bolingbroke's seat near Fontainebleau.

† Although the causes here assigned naturally and sufficiently account for Lord Chesterfield's journey to the South of France, it has also been frequently ascribed to a deep political motive. It is said that his real object was to solicit through the Duke of Ormond (whose guest he was for a few days at Avignon) an order from the Pretender to the Jacobites to concur in all future attacks against Walpole. See Lord Orford's *Memoirs*, vol. i. p. 45.

in Scotland, inform me of your health only, in which I need not tell you the part I take. When you come here, you may add whatever your own leisure, and the situation of things allow. Direct for me at my house in town, from whence all letters will be sent me; upon any extraordinary occasion make use of some amanuensis you can trust, and sign 'Johnson.' The curiosity of knowing what becomes of one's country, and one's friends, is natural, nay, the want of it would be blameable; but beyond that, I protest, the melancholy prospect before us has sunk me into such an indifference as to public matters, that I should neither trouble my friends nor myself about them. I want those two great prevailing springs of action, avarice and ambition; and being convinced that, as the world goes, a man, that will enjoy a quiet conscience, must lead a quiet life, I most cheerfully embrace an honest, however contemptible obscurity, in which I shall ever be, &c.

Pray make my compliments to Lord Stair, when you see him; these late events will prove to him, how impossible it was to have any concert between Scotland, and those here, who had no concert among themselves.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 224.)

Spa, July 4, N.S. 1741.

DEAR DOCTOR,

It was with real concern that I heard you were ill; and it is with equal truth that I hope this will find you perfectly recovered: that virtue which makes you

fit, and it may be willing, to die, makes those who are acquainted with it, as I am, unwilling you should; therefore take care of your health, and let it not be affected by a too great sensibility of those misfortunes that inseparably attend our state here. Do all you can to prevent them, but, when inevitable, bear them with resolution; this is the part I take with relation to my own health: I do all I can to retrieve and improve it; and if I acquire it, I will do all I can to preserve it; my bodily infirmities shall as little as possible affect my mind, and so far at least I will lessen the weight of them. .

These waters have already done me so much good, that I have reason to expect a great deal more from them; and I expect still more benefit from passing my autumn afterwards in constant travelling through the South of France: thus you see I anticipate eventually the good, which is at least so much clear gain, let what will happen afterwards; do so too, dear Doctor, and be as well, and as happy, as you are sincerely wished to be by

Your most faithful friend and servant.

TO G. BUBB DODINGTON, ESQ.

(Coxe's Walpole, vol. iii. p. 579.)

Spa, September 8, 1741.

SIR,

HAVING at last found a safe way of sending you this letter, I shall, without the least reserve, give you my thoughts upon the contents of yours of the 30th of May, O. S.

By the best judgment I can form of the list of this

present Parliament, and I have examined it very carefully, we appear to be so strong, that I think we can but just be called the minority; and I am very sure that such a minority, well united and well conducted, might soon be a majority. But,

Hoc opus hic labor est.

It will neither be united nor well conducted. Those who should lead it will make it their business to break and divide it; and they will succeed; I mean Carteret and Pulteney. Their behaviour for these few years has, in my mind, plainly shown their views and their negotiations with the Court: but, surely, their conduct at the end of last Session puts that matter out of all dispute. They feared even the success of that minority, and took care to render it as insignificant as possible. Will they then not be much more apprehensive of the success of this; and will not both their merit and their reward be much the greater for defeating it? If you tell me that they ought rather to avail themselves of these numbers, and, at the head of them, force their way where they are so impatient to go, I will agree with you, that in prudence they ought; but the fact is, they reason quite differently, desire to get in with a few, by negotiation, and not by victory with numbers, who, they fear, might presume upon their strength, and grow troublesome to their generals.

On the other hand, Sir Robert must be alarmed at our numbers, and must resolve to reduce them before they are brought into the field. He knows by experience where and how to apply for that purpose; with this difference only, that the numbers will have raised

the price, which he must come up to. And this is all the fruit I expect from this strong minority. You will possibly ask me, whether all this is in the power of Carteret and Pulteney? I answer, yes—in the power of Pulteney alone. He has a personal influence over many, and an interested influence over more. The silly, half-witted, zealous Whigs consider him as the only support of Whigism; and look upon us as running headlong into Bolingbroke and the Tories. The interested Whigs, as Sandys, Rushout and Gibbon,* with many others, are as impatient to come into Court as he can be; and, persuaded that he has opened that door a little, will hold fast by him to squeeze in with him, and think they can justify their conduct to the public, by following their old leader, under the colours (though false ones) of Whigism.

What then, is nothing to be done? Are we to give it up tamely, when the prospect seems so fair? No; I am for acting, let our numbers be what they will. I am for discriminating, and making people speak out; though our numbers should, as I am convinced they will, lessen considerably by it. Let what will happen, we cannot be in a worse situation than that we have been in for these last three or four years. Nay, I am for acting at the very beginning of the Session, and bringing our numbers the first week; and points for that purpose, I am sure, are not wanting. Some occur to me now, many more will, I dare say, occur to others; and many will, by that time, present themselves.

* Sir John Rushout, Bart. and Philip Gibbon. The three gentlemen here named, all became members of the new Board of Treasury on the fall of Walpole; Sandys as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

For example, the Court generally proposes some servile and shameless tool of theirs* to be Chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Elections. Why should not we, therefore, pick out some Whig of a fair character, and with personal connections, to set up in opposition? I think we should be pretty strong upon this point. But as for opposition to their Speaker, if it be Onslow, we shall be but weak; he having, by a certain decency of behaviour, made himself many personal friends in the minority. The affair of Carthagena† will of course be mentioned; and there, in my opinion, a question, and a trying one too, of censure, lies very fair, that the delaying of that expedition so late last year was the principal cause of our disappointment. An Address to the King, desiring him to make no peace with Spain, unless our undoubted right of navigation in the West Indies, without molestation or search, be clearly, and in express words, stipulated; and till we have acquired some valuable possession there, as a pledge of the performance of such stipulation: such a question would surely be a popular one, and distressful enough to the Ministry.

I entirely agree with you, that we ought to have meetings to concert measures some time before the meeting of the Parliament; but that, I likewise know, will not happen. I have been these seven years endeavouring to bring it about, and have not been able; fox-hunting, gardening, planting, or indifference having always kept our people in the country, till the very day before the meeting of the Parliament. Be-

* Giles Earle. See note to p. 118, of this volume.

† See note to the letter of May 1740.

sides, would it be easy to settle who should be at those meetings? If Pulteney and his people were to be chose, it would only be informing them beforehand, what they should either oppose or defeat; and if they were not there, their own exclusion would in some degree justify, or at least colour, their conduct. As to our most flagitious House, I believe you agree there is nothing to be done in it; and for such a minority to struggle with such a majority, would be much like the late King of Sweden's attacking the Ottoman army at Bender, at the head of his cook and his butler.

These are difficulties, the insurmountable difficulties, that I foresee; and which make me absolutely despair of seeing any good done. However, I am entirely at the service of you and the rest of my friends who mean the public good. I will either fight or run away as you shall determine. If the Duke of Argyle sounds to battle, I will follow my leader; if he stays in Oxfordshire, I'll stay in Grosvenor Square.* I think it is all one which we do as to our House; yours must be the scene of action, if action there be; and action, I think, there should be, at least for a time, let your numbers be what you will.

I leave this place to-morrow, and set out for France; a country which, in my conscience, I think as free as our own: they have not the form of freedom, as we have. I know no other difference. I shall pass a couple of months in rambling through the Southern Provinces, and then return to England, to receive what commands, you may leave for, &c.

* Since his marriage, Lord Chesterfield had removed from St. James's to Grosvenor Square, until he built the mansion which bears his name.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 262.)

London, November 12, 1741.

MY DEAR LORD,

MR. HUME gave me yesterday your letter of the 25th of September, which, I confess, was a great disappointment to one, who both hoped and expected to have found you here in person at this time of the year. He even gave me no comfort upon that point, but said, he did not know that you had fixed any time for coming to your friends in town. I therefore write this in a great hurry, to beg of you to come here as soon as your indispensable private affairs will permit you. I need not tell you, that it is not proper for you, in the light that all mankind sees you, to be buried in Scotland at this extraordinary crisis;* less need I tell you, how agreeable and necessary your presence here will be to all your friends, and how indispensably necessary it is to me, who cannot stir one step without you. The minority is a considerable and a willing one; and if we can frustrate the designs of some few, who want to divide and weaken it, some good, I think, may be done; but I repeat it again, I can do nothing without you, so

Nil mihi rescribas, attamen ipse veni,

is the most earnest request of, &c.

* The new Parliament was to meet on the 1st of the ensuing month, and the Opposition, conscious of its strength, was now preparing for those efforts, which drove Sir Robert Walpole from office in February next. Lord Chesterfield's speech on the Address (December 4, 1741,) was applauded for its eloquence even by the speakers on the other side.

A MADAME DE MARTEL.*

(Works, vol. iii. p. 19.)

[Février, 1742.]

Nos lettres, Madame, ne semblent se croiser que pour donner lieu à la délicatesse de nos soupçons réciproques, et aux éclaircissemens qui les suivent de si près, circonstances qui ne gâtent rien en amitié, non plus qu'en amour. J'avoue que je me trouve flatté de vos soupçons, et je vous jure que chaque fois que je me vois détrompé des miens, qui par parenthèse sont beaucoup mieux fondés, j'en ai une véritable joie. Ces sentimens, qui sont très réels, ne vous montrent-ils l'amitié de mon côté que comme une chimère en perspective, ou plutôt ne vous prouvent-ils pas que votre château en Espagne est un édifice très solide, et tout fait ? Oui, Madame, soyez persuadée que, si vous daignez souhaiter, ou même accepter, une amitié aussi peu intéressante qu'est la mienne, elle vous est déjà toute acquise, et pour toujours ; et sans craindre les illusions de l'amour propre, vous pouvez vous en fier à votre propre mérite, comme garant de cette vérité. Je considère donc notre amitié comme ratifiée par ces présentes, et si bien ratifiée même, que pour jouir de mes droits je n'userai plus à l'avenir de politesse ni de ménagement pour vous. Dieu sait même si avec le tems je n'en abuserai pas au point de vous tutoyer, car on ne se tient guères au point convenable, et l'amitié est presque toujours, ou abusée par la familiarité, ou gênée par les façons. Je commence dès à présent par

* "Madame Martel, s'appelait Mademoiselle Coulon ; c'était une "petite demoiselle de Dauphiné, dont à son arrivée la beauté fit grand "bruit ; elle était précieuse, affectée, galante, et eut beaucoup d'aventures." (Madame du Deffand, Lettre à Walpole, le 23 Mars, 1777.)

vous insulter, et je vous annonce que malgré vos vœux, votre ami, et non pas notre ami,* est parti aujourd'hui pour sa terre; arraché au Roi par la majorité du Parlement, et en même tems comblé de nouvelles marques de faveur, comme titre de Comte, pension considérable, charges à vie pour ses amis, et dépendans. Sa retraite n'a pas la mine d'être fort tranquille. Il n'y a pas encore un nouveau ministère déclaré, et comme vous pouvez juger il y a bien du mouvement à cette occasion : peu de jours en décideront.

Voilà pour les nouvelles, que je ne bannis non plus que vous de notre commerce, mais dont je fais l'article le moins essentiel, car par ma foi je me soucie bien moins de ce que font les Rois que de ce que vous me dites et de ce que vous pensez, et les faits seront toujours les endroits de vos lettres qui m'intéresseront le moins. Ce n'est pas au reste un grand compliment que je vous fais, vû la situation d'esprit, dans laquelle je me trouve : car, soit philosophie, soit paresse, ou même indolence, je regarde tous ces évènements qui agitent tant les autres, avec le même sang froid que je lis ceux de l'antiquité; et tous les Rois de l'Europe sont pour moi les Rois de Perse et d'Egypte. Si pourtant ma destinée, ou mes liaisons, m'obligent à prendre quelque part aux affaires, il faut subir le joug,

* Sir Robert Walpole. In this passage Lord Chesterfield, amidst the party-spirit of the times, does not do justice to Walpole's fortitude and serenity in his fall. His friend Lord Morton at the same period (February 11) writes as follows to Duncan Forbes, Lord President: "Last week there passed a scene between him and me by ourselves, that affected me more than anything I ever met with in my life. He has been sore hurt by flatterers, but has a great and an undaunted spirit, and a tranquillity something more than human." (Culloden Papers, p. 175.)

et remplir mes engagements, mais ce ne sera pas sans envier le bienheureux sort de ceux qui restent maîtres de leur tems, de leurs actions, et de leurs paroles.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 225.)

London, March 6, 1742.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I WILL not tell you that I am sorry for your Southwark disappointment,* because, as the Irishman said, I think you have got a loss ; and considering the charge of removing, and the increase of your expense by living in London, I am sure you would have been no gainer by your preferment, and yet you would have been looked upon by the Court as provided for. I need not tell you, I am sure, how much I wish to be able to contribute to the advantageous change of your situation ; but I am sure, too, that I cannot tell you when I shall ; for, till I can do it consistently with my honour and conscience, I will not do it at all, and I know you do not desire I should. The public has already assigned me different employments, and among others that which you mention ; but I have been offered none, I have asked for none, and I will accept of none till I see a little clearer into matters than I do at present : I have opposed measures not men, and the change of two or three men only is not a sufficient pledge to me that measures will be changed ; nay, rather an indication that they will not ; and I am sure no employment whatsoever shall prevail with me to support measures I have so justly opposed. A good conscience

* See the preceding letter of February 15, 1740.

is in my mind a better thing than the best employment, and I will not have the latter till I can keep it with the former: when that can be, I shall not decline a public life, though in truth, more inclined to a private one. You did very well to hinder your friend, Mr. Hutchins,* from taking a useless journey. I have heard a very good character of him, and shall be very glad to do for him when in my power; but he must naturally suppose too, that I have some prior engagements to satisfy, and you will possibly think it but reasonable that you should be my first care; at least I think so, for I am

Very faithfully yours.

My compliments to Mrs. Chenevix.

TO DR. CHEYNE,† (OF BATH.)

(Works, vol. iv. p. 216.)

London, April 20, 1742.

DEAR DOCTOR,

YOUR inquiries and advice concerning my health are very pleasing marks of your remembrance and friendship; which, I assure you, I value as I ought. It is very true, I have, during these last three months, had frequent returns of my giddinesses, languors, and other nervous symptoms, for which I have taken vomits; the first did me good, the others rather disagreed with me. It is the same with my diet; some-

* A clergyman in Leicestershire.

† One of the most celebrated physicians of his day, born in 1671. He had retired to Bath for the sake of his own health, and died there in 1742, shortly after the date of this letter.

times the lowest agrees, at other times disagrees, with me. In short, after all the attention and observation I am capable of, I can hardly say what does me good, and what not. My constitution conforms itself so much to the fashion of the times, that it changes almost daily its friends for its enemies, and its enemies for its friends. Your alkalis'd mercury, and your Burgundy, have proved its two most constant friends. I take them both now, and with more advantage than any other medicine. I propose going to Spa as soon as the season will permit, having really received great benefit by those waters last year; and I find my shattered tenement admits of but half repairs, and requires them annually.

The *corpus sanum*, which you wish me, will never be my lot; but the *mens sana*, I hope, will be continued to me, and then I shall better bear the infirmities of the body. Hitherto, far from impairing my reason, they have only made me more reasonable, by subduing the tumultuous and troublesome passions. I enjoy my friends and my books as much as ever, and I seek for no other enjoyments; so that I am become a perfect philosopher; but whether *malgré moi* or no, I will not take upon me to determine, not being sure that we do not owe more of our merit to accidents, than our pride and self-love are willing to ascribe to them.

I read with great pleasure your book, which your bookseller sent me according to your directions. The physical part is extremely good, and the metaphysical part may be so too, for what I know; and I believe it is; for, as I look upon all metaphysics to be guess-work of imagination, I know no imagination likelier

to hit upon the right than yours ; and I will take your guess against any other metaphysician's whatsoever. That part, which is founded upon knowledge and experience, I look upon as a work of public utility ; and for which, the present age and their posterity may be obliged to you, if they will be pleased to follow it.

I am, &c.

A MADAME DE TENCIN.*

(Works, vol. iii. p. 51.)

à Londres, ce 20 Août, V. S. [1742.]

COMBATTU par des mouvemens bien différens, j'ai longtems balancé, avant que d'oser me déterminer à vous envoyer cette lettre. Je sentoie toute l'indiscrétion d'une telle démarche, et à quel point c'étoit abuser de la bonté que vous avez eue pour moi pendant mon séjour à Paris, que de vous la redemander pour un autre ; mais sollicité vivement par une dame, que son mérite met à l'abri des refus, et porté d'ailleurs à profiter du moindre prétexte pour rappeler un souvenir qui m'est si précieux que le votre, le penchant, comme il arrive presque toujours, a triomphé de la discrétion, et je satisfais en même tems à mes propres inclinations, et aux instances de Madame Cleland, qui aura l'honneur de vous rendre cette lettre. Je sais par expérience, Madame, car j'en suis moi-même un exemple, que ce n'est pas la première affaire de la sorte, à laquelle votre réputation, qui ne se renferme point dans les bornes de la France, vous a exposée ; mais je

* Sister of the Cardinal of the same name, and famous both for wit and intrigue. She had many friends among men of letters, especially Fontenelle and Montesquieu.

me flatte aussi que vous ne la trouverez pas la plus désagréable. Un mérite supérieur, un esprit juste, délicat, et orné par la lecture de tout ce qu'il y a de bon dans toutes les langues, et un grand usage du monde, qui ont acquis à Madame Cleland l'estime et la considération de tout ce qu'il y a d'honnêtes gens ici, me rassurent sur la liberté que je prends de vous la recommander, et me persuadent même que vous ne m'en saurez pas mauvais gré. J'avoue, Madame, que ce seroit vous faire un mauvais retour pour tout ce que je vous dois, que de vous endosser mes compatriotes, gens très peu faits pour répandre des agrémens dans la société, et qui se trouveroient fort déplacés dans celle que votre mérite et votre bon goût forment chez vous, et dont vous êtes en même tems et le soutien et l'ornement. Mais ne craignez rien de ce côté là ; je ne pousse pas l'indiscrétion à ce point. Madame Cleland n'est Angloise que de naissance, mais Françoise par régénération, si je puis me servir de ce terme. Si vous me demandez par hasard pourquoi elle m'a choisi pour son introducteur chez vous, et pourquoi elle a cru que je m'étois acquis ce droit là, je vous dirai naturellement que c'est moi qui en suis cause. En cela j'ai suivi l'exemple de la plupart des voyageurs, qui, à leur retour, se font valoir chez eux, par leurs prétendues liaisons avec tout ce qu'il y a de plus distingué chez les autres. Les Rois, les Princes, et les Ministres, les ont toujours comblés de leurs graces, et moyennant ce faux étalage d'honneurs qu'ils n'ont point reçus, ils acquièrent souvent une considération qu'ils ne méritent point. J'ai vanté vos bontés pour moi, je les ai exagérées même s'il étoit possible, et enfin, pour ne vous rien cacher, ma vanité a poussé

l'effronterie au point de me donner pour votre ami, favori, et enfant de la maison ; quand Madame Cleland m'a pris au mot, et m'a dit, " Je vais bientôt en France : je n'y ambitionne rien tant que l'honneur de connoître Madame de Tencin ; vous qui êtes si bien là, il ne vous coûtera rien de me donner une lettre pour elle." Le cas étoit embarrassant : car, après ce que j'avois dit, un refus auroit été trop choquant à Madame Cleland, et l'aveu que je n'étois pas en droit de le faire, trop humiliant pour mon amour propre ; si bien que je me suis trouvé réduit à risquer le paquet, et je crois même que je l'aurois fait, si je n'avois pas eu l'honneur de vous connoître du tout, plutôt que de me donner le démenti sur un article si sensible.

Ayant donc franchi le pas, je voudrois bien en profiter, pour vous expliquer les sentimens de reconnaissance que j'ai, et que j'aurai toujours des bontés que vous m'avez témoignées à Paris ; et je voudrois aussi vous exprimer tout ce que je pense des qualités qui distinguent votre cœur et votre esprit de tous les autres, mais cela me meneroit également au delà des bornes d'une lettre, et au dessus de mes forces. Je souhaiterois que M. de Fontenelle voulût bien s'en charger pour moi. Sur cet article, je puis dire sans vanité que nous pensons de même, avec cette différence, qu'il vous le diroit avec cet esprit, cette délicatesse, et cette élégance qui lui sont personnelles, et seules convenables au sujet. Permettez donc, Madame, que destitué de tous ces avantages de l'esprit, je vous assure simplement des sentimens de mon cœur, de l'estime, de la vénération, et de l'attachement respectueux avec lesquels je serai toute ma vie,

Madame, Votre, &c.

Je crois que vous me pardonnerez si je vous supplie de faire mes complimens à M. de Fontenelle.*

A MONS. DE CREBILLON (LE FILS).

(Works, vol. iii. p. 45.)

Londres, ce 26 Août, V. S. [1742.]

MONSIEUR,

EN dernier lieu la poste m'a été plus favorable que de coutume, et m'a apporté vos deux dernières lettres† à tems. Si elle m'a rendu justice aussi auprès de vous, vous aurez vu par ma précédente, que j'étois rassuré sur ce que, pendant quelque tems, sa négligence m'avoit fait craindre. A présent même je lui sais bon gré d'une négligence, qui m'a procuré des marques si flatteuses de votre amitié, et de vos sentimens à mon égard. Je puis avec vérité vous assurer du réciproque par rap-

* The reply of Madame de Tencin to this letter (dated October 22, 1742, and printed in Lord Chesterfield's Works, vol. iii. p. 57) commences with some graceful and truly Parisian compliments to her English friend. "Je voudrois, Milord, que vous eussiez été témoin de la reception de votre lettre. Elle me fut remise par M. de Montesquieu au milieu de la société que vous connoissez. Ce que vous me dites de flatteur m'empêcha quelques momens de la montrer, mais l'amour propre trouve toujours le moyen d'avoir son compte. La lettre fut donc lue, et ne le fut pas pour une fois. 'Ce Milord se moque de nous !' s'écria M. de Fontenelle, qui fut suivi des autres. 'Qu'il se contente, s'il lui plaît, d'être le premier homme de sa nation, d'avoir les lumières et la profondeur de génie qui la caractérisent ; et qu'il ne vienne point encore s'emparer de nos graces et de nos gentilleses !'— Les plaintes et les murmures de l'assemblée dureroient encore si après avoir convenu bien franchement de vos torts je ne m'étois avisée de rappeler les agrémens et la douceur de votre commerce. 'Qu'il nous revienne donc !' dirent-ils tous à la fois, 'nous lui passerons alors d'avoir plus d'esprit que nous !' "

† These two letters from M. de Crébillon are printed in Lord Chesterfield's Works, vol. iii. pp. 27-45.

port à mes sentimens ; mais malheureusement le réciproque finit là, et me manque dans le besoin de vous l'exprimer.

Il y a des vérités avantageuses, qui sentent trop la flatterie, faute d'une certaine délicatesse dans la manière de les dire, comme il y a une flatterie qui, moyennant cette délicatesse, ne paroît qu'une simple vérité. Le talent vous en est personnel, et m'a presque fait croire que je mérite tout ce que vous me dites.

J'avoue ma foiblesse pour la flatterie ; je l'aime autant que Voltaire peut l'aimer, mais avec cette différence, que je ne l'aime que de main de maître. J'en suis friand, il en est goulé. J'y ai un bon appétit naturel, il en a une faim canine, qui lui fait dévorer avec avidité tout ce que le plus mauvais gargarisme lui présente.

Je sens bien que tout ceci est la même chose que si je vous disois : Monsieur, flattez moi tant qu'il vous plaira, j'en serai charmé. J'en conviens, et je n'en rougis point. *Laudari a laudato viro*, a passé de tout tems pour une ambition très pardonnable ; et Cicéron, écrivant à un homme comme vous, lui dit plus d'une fois, *orna me*.

Je comprends parfaitement cela ; mais je ne comprends pas comment on n'est pas indigné de la flatterie de ceux dont l'approbation réelle seroit à mon avis humiliante.

Voltaire m'a récité l'année passée à Bruxelles plusieurs tirades de son Mahomet, où j'ai trouvé de très beaux vers, et quelques pensées plus brillantes que justes ; mais j'ai d'abord vu qu'il en vouloit à Jesus-Christ, sous le caractère de Mahomet, et j'étois surpris qu'on ne s'en fût pas aperçu à Lille, où elle fut

représentée immédiatement avant que j'y passasse. Même je trouvai à Lille un bon Catholique, dont le zèle surpassoit la pénétration, qui étoit extrêmement édifié de la manière dont cet imposteur et ennemi du Christianisme étoit dépeint.

Pour les scènes décousues, et les morceaux déplacés, si vous n'en voulez pas, vous ne voulez pas de Voltaire. Avec lui, il n'est pas question de son sujet, mais des pensées hardies, brillantes et singulières qu'il veut donner au public, n'importe où ni comment.

Passé encore pour cela ; il n'est pas le premier auteur qu'une imagination vive ait enlevé au-dessus de la raison et de la justesse ; mais ce que je ne lui pardonne pas, et qui n'est pas pardonnable, c'est tous les mouvemens qu'il se donne pour la propagation d'une doctrine aussi pernicieuse à la société civile que contraire à la religion générale de tous les pays.

Je doute fort s'il est permis à un homme d'écrire contre le culte et la croyance de son pays, quand même il seroit de bonne foi persuadé qu'il y eût des erreurs, à cause du trouble et du désordre qu'il y pourroit causer ; mais je suis bien sûr qu'il n'est nullement permis d'attaquer les fondemens de la morale, et de rompre des liens si nécessaires, et déjà trop foibles pour retenir les hommes dans le devoir.

Malgré toute la fatuité, tous les égaremens, et les impertinences d'auteur, je ne conviendrai jamais que vous renonciez à ce nom, encore moins au métier. Le public y perdrait, j'y perdrais, et vous y perdriez aussi trop. D'ailleurs, il me semble que plus un corps est sujet à des défauts marqués, plus il est glorieux d'être de ce corps, et en même tems, comme vous, d'être exempt de ses défauts.

Parmi les "animaux écrivants," comme vous définissez les auteurs, l'animal écrivain bien est aussi rare, qu'est parmi les animaux raisonnables, comme on nous définit, l'animal qui se sert de sa raison. Continuez, donc, en dépit des caillettes et des petits-maîtres, à mériter une distinction qui vous est due par tant d'endroits, et ajoutez y même, en ajoutant à vos volumes. Donnez nous seulement assez, je ne me mets pas en peine du reste. *De te nam cætera sumes.*

Adieu, Monsieur ; car je m'aperçois que cette lettre approche presque d'un volume, qui ne ressembleroit nullement à ceux que je vous demande, mais qui vous ennuyeroit fort.

Je suis, avec toute l'estime que vous méritez, &c.

P. S.—Si vous voyez quelquefois Madame Herault, faites la souvenir de moi, en l'assurant de mon respect, et dites lui de plus, que si je n'avois une grandeur d'ame unique, qui me rend incapable d'insulte ou de vengeance, je lui enverrois bien des chansons qu'on a faites ici, sur certains mauvais succès en Allemagne,* et que je traduirois en François, pour l'usage de M. de Séchelles.†

* The ill-success of the French armies during this campaign, in the war against Maria Theresa.

† Probably the father of Herault de Séchelles, too well known in the worst times of the French Revolution. It is stated in the *Biographie Universelle*, that his grandfather, who had been *Lieutenant-Général de Police*, had died August 2, 1740.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 281.)

London, September 8, 1742.

MY DEAR LORD,

THE ill fortune that commonly attends me in everything has distinguished itself lately in putting me out of your way, every time you have endeavoured to see me. I have as often intended to wait upon you at Battersea, but have as constantly been prevented by some unexpected and ill-timed incident. I have a thousand things to say to you, and to almost only you; for, except one or two more of my friends and yours, whom can one speak to with either satisfaction or safety in these times of perfidy and avarice, when half-a-crown can dissolve the strongest ties of friendship?

I go to-morrow to Nugent's* for a week, from whence, when I return, I shall take up Pope at Twickenham the 19th, and carry him to the Duchess of Marlborough's at Windsor, in our way to Cobham's, where we are to be the 21st of this month. Should you happen to be at the Duchess of Marlborough's the 19th or 20th, it would be a pleasure, I dare say, to all who will be there those two days, and to none a more sensible one, than to

Your most attached and faithful servant.

* Robert Nugent, afterwards created Earl Nugent. He was a maternal ancestor of the present Duke of Buckingham.

TO HUGH, EARL OF MARCHMONT.

(Marchmont Papers, vol. ii. p. 289.)

Thursday, January 5. [1748.]

MY DEAR LORD,

LORD BOLINGBROKE dines with me to-morrow; I do not know whether Lord Marchmont does or not; but I wish he did.

I send you the skeleton of a protest* upon the Hanover troops: it is truly a skeleton yet; I beg you will give it flesh and colour, which nobody can do so well. It is a child which I am by no means fond of; so pray use it with all the severity necessary for its good. Keep it by you a week; insert, cut out what you think proper; and return it me as unlike as possible to what it is now.

I am, my dear Lord, &c.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 227.)

London, November 3, 1743.

DEAR DOCTOR,

As this is a begging letter, I think I should begin in the usual style of those epistles, and tell you that past favours embolden me to ask for new ones, and

* A motion in the House of Peers against taking Hanoverian troops into British pay was brought forward on the 1st of February ensuing, by Lord Chesterfield's kinsman, Earl Stanhope. But after a long debate (in which Lord Chesterfield's eloquence was highly distinguished) the Ministers prevailed by ninety votes against thirty-five. The protest on its rejection, as being written by Lord Chesterfield, bears his signature as the first on the list.

that your ale was so good that I wish you would send me a little more of it. By the time it lasted me, for I drank the last bottle yesterday, you may judge, that I mean literally but a little more; and if you send me more than you did last time, it will only be spoiled before it is drunk.

My brother John told me he left you at Nottingham in perfect health, which I was extremely glad to hear, it being in my mind impossible for a man not to be happy with good health and a good conscience like yours. Money may improve but cannot make happiness; and though I wish it would improve yours, yet, in the mean time, I am convinced that there are many more people in this kingdom that have reason to envy your situation, than to prefer their own to it.

I have been of late a little out of order with a cold; but bleeding set me right, and I am in hopes of resisting the winter tolerably, which is the trying season to me.

Adieu, dear Doctor, *divertissez-vous, il n'y a rien de tel*; and believe me most affectionately and faithfully yours.

To LADY ———

(Works, vol. iii. p. 391.)

Vous feriez bien mieux, Madame, de vous fier à votre propre jugement que de demander le mien sur les Lettres en question, aussi bien que sur toute autre chose; mais vous me l'ordonnez, il faut obéir. Il faut donc que j'aie l'honneur de vous dire naturellement,

que l'auteur* trouvera très-peu de personnes, qui voudront s'engager à payer deux cent francs par an pour deux lettres de la fabrique dont il a donné l'échantillon.

Par exemple, en voulant montrer que ceux, qui ont traité de notre mot *humour*, s'y sont trompés, il ne montre que trop qu'il l'ignore parfaitement lui-même.

La définition pourtant en est assez simple : *humour* c'est une représentation juste et frappante de ce qu'il y a de singulier ou de ridicule dans un caractère, et *a man of humour* est un homme, qui saisit vivement ce singulier, ou ce ridicule, qui distingue ce caractère, et qui le met dans tout son jour. On s' imagine généralement que nous autres Anglois possédons, exclusivement des autres nations, l'*humour* ; mais il n'y a rien de moins vrai. Jamais homme n'en a tant eu que Molière ; son Avare, son Jaloux, son Bourgeois Gentilhomme, en sont des preuves suffisantes ; et la comédie Française en fournit encore un millier d'exemples. Si à la vérité, on dit qu'il n'y a pas de pays en Europe, où il y a tant de différens caractères singuliers, je crois qu'on n'aura pas tort. Mais *humour* ne consiste pas en cela. L'homme qui a le travers, ou le ridicule, n'a point d'*humour*, c'est son naturel ; mais c'est l'homme qui saisit, et qui dépeint ce ridicule ou ce travers, qui a de l'*humour*. Je finis cette dissertation déjà trop

* There is no trace to whom this letter was addressed, but a note of Dr. Maty informs us that the gentleman therein referred to, was Abbé Le Blanc, and his book, the *Lettres d'un François*. That book, which gives a clear and amusing account of England, was published at the Hague (chez Jean Neaulme) in 1745. It would seem as if it had been in the first instance designed to be published by subscription ; and this letter written in French to an English lady was no doubt intended to be shown to the author.

longue sur l'*humour*, et dans laquelle, peut-être, ai-je donné à gauche autant que votre auteur, et ceux qu'il critique. D'ailleurs, quand on a l'honneur d'écrire à une personne comme vous, il sembleroit assez singulier que trois pages entières ne roulissent uniquement que sur le ridicule des caractères. Des matières plus agréables demanderoient une juste préférence, et votre critique épistolaire y trouveroit bien de quoi critiquer.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec les sentimens de la plus parfaite considération,

Votre très-humble, &c.

TO THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague,* February 21, N. S. 1745.

MY LORD,

HAVING received no commands from your Lordship by the last post, I have little to trouble you with by this.

I thought the keeping of the Dutch ships, an object of consequence enough to give in yesterday the inclosed Memorial to the States-General, with the report of the Lords of the Admiralty translated and annexed. But I am far from saying, and it may be from hoping, that it will have any effect; for the word Necessity is the

* The year 1745 proved most eventful to Lord Chesterfield. On the 3d of January, he was appointed by His Majesty, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but was instructed to proceed previously on a special embassy to the Hague. The object of that embassy, and the course he pursued in it, are explained by Lord Chesterfield himself, in his letter to his son of September 29, 1752.

answer to every thing I ask. It is really true that all their Admiralties together cannot fit out another ship in the world; but it is as true too, that this necessity is owing to that long ill conduct and those inveterate abuses, which have near destroyed, and if they go on, as I think they are much more likely to do than to be reformed, will soon totally ruin this Republic.

The Princess Royal and the Prince of Orange arrived last night at their House in the Wood, and I had the honour of waiting upon them this day. Her Royal Highness is declared to be with child. The States-General will, I dare say, soon appoint his Highness General of the Foot, dating his commission on the 2nd of January, 1742, which is the day after the dates of the Commissions of the Foreign Generals that made so much noise here, and that gave the Province of Frise the reason (or possibly only the pretence) of opposing every thing and paying nothing ever since. I hope the Prince will accept of that commission: I do my utmost to prevail with him, but I much doubt of my success. I will venture to say he is very ill advised if he does not, both for his own private and the public interest.

The appointing the Prince of Waldeck to command in chief the Dutch forces this year, has disgusted many of the old Generals here; but in truth they are such as are much better disgusted than employed. This choice is approved of by every body else. They have chosen him here as a spirited mettled officer, fit for the action and vigour which they intend and hope for this campaign. General Cronstrom said beforehand that he would quit, but has since begged to be employed:

Ginkel talks in the same way, but I dare say will act in the same manner. Pretorius I really believe will quit this service. I am ever, &c.

TO THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, February 23, N. S. 1745.

MY LORD,

THE Greffier has just now brought me a resolution of the States in answer to my Memorial about the ships; but as it is in Dutch and too late to have it translated to-night, I do not send it your Lordship. Moreover it is sent to Monsieur Hop, from whom you will hear enough of it. The substance is to insist upon having ten of their ships back again, to serve for convoys to their fleets of merchant-men. I have not agreed to it, but I fear his Majesty must, or else he will run the risk of losing them all. For they are so set upon this that I think them very capable of recalling the whole twenty, if the ten are refused them. But I think it should be understood that in consideration of his Majesty's consent to part with one half, that he may absolutely depend upon the continuance of the other half, properly victualled and fit for any service he may think proper to employ them in. As they want these ships to protect their trade against the French, I have taken this occasion to ask them what they get by not declaring war against France, since France in effect has declared it against them? And what they could lose by declaring it, if their trade is equally interrupted? But arguments have little

weight in the present anarchy, and without returning any, their answer is they can't, because they can't, or they won't because they won't.

I am with the greatest truth and respect, &c.

TO THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, February 26, N. S. 1745.

MY LORD,

I COULD not help troubling your Lordship with this solicitation in favour of one Mr. Lewis Oury, who is now a Lieutenant of Invalids in Jersey. He is brother to Madame Van-haren, the wife to the celebrated Monsieur Van-haren, of Frise, who is a most active, able, and well intentioned member of this Government; but who, being of a very violent temper, is as easily angered as pleased. His wife, that is himself (for he married her for love and has the surprising good fortune of being in love with her still) solicited me strongly to recommend him to his Majesty's favour for a company of Invalids in Jersey or Guernsey, or any other promotion that his Majesty shall think proper. I could not refuse recommending this to your Lordship to lay before his Majesty; for though the promotion of Mr. Oury may in itself be very insignificant, I am sure it will extremely oblige Monsieur Van-haren, and the disappointment I fear may equally offend him.

I am with great truth and respect, &c.

TO THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Hague, March 5, N. S. 1745.

MY LORD,

BY a letter I have just now seen from General Wade* to General Ligonier, it seems as if the former expected to be sent to command the British troops again this year in Flanders. It little becomes me, and indeed I am less inclined, to mingle myself in an affair of that nature, in which I have most certainly nothing to do; but as I had your Lordship's orders when I left England to send you the sentiments of people here, upon the subject of another person, I think myself under the same obligation to communicate to your Lordship their unanimous sentiments upon Maréchal Wade. Your Lordship may remember that, in my former letter upon this delicate subject, I told you, that though they thought Lord Stair too warm and enterprising, they would infinitely rather see him at the head of the British troops than Maréchal Wade, of whom, I must say, they have (though I dare say without reason) a very indifferent opinion, and against whom I have with the greatest difficulty (and possibly not yet quite) stopped a public complaint which they intended to have made to his Majesty, upon the separation of the troops last year.

I find by the same letter to General Ligonier that Lord Stair was to have commanded in Flanders, but

* General George Wade, raised to the rank of Field-Marshal in December, 1743. He is now chiefly remembered from the military roads which were executed under his direction through the Highlands.

that the command given to Count Königseck has obstructed that affair. I hope I have not been to blame in concurring with the States in their offer of that command to Feld-Maréchal Königseck, which I should not have done so readily, had I not known from your Lordship that his Majesty had thought of that General in failure of Prince Charles, and that his Majesty's intentions had been communicated to him, as appeared by his letter to Monsieur Wasner, which your Lordship showed me. As to the dispute of command, or other difficulties of that nature, I am an utter stranger to them; but I took it for granted then, and do still, that Count Königseck could never be thought of in any other light than as Commander-in-Chief of the whole combined army, and not as Commander only of the few Austrian forces that may make a small part of it; and by a letter I have seen from Count Königseck to Baron Reischach, I find he understands it so too himself. From all which, I don't see what new difficulty can have arisen concerning Lord Stair, that was not to be expected from the very first nomination of Feld-Maréchal Königseck. If I have done anything wrong in this affair, I must only beg his Majesty's pardon, it having been merely an error of ignorance; for if in his Majesty's service I could be influenced by any other motive, it would have been by my regard and long friendship for Lord Stair. I must beg your Lordship will manage me in the invidious part which I am so unwillingly obliged to take in this affair.

I am, &c.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 228.)

Hague, March 12, N. S. 1745.

I PUT nothing at top of this letter, not knowing whether the familiar appellation of *dear doctor* would now become me; because I hope that, by the time you receive this letter, you will be, as it were, my Lord of Clonfert. I have the pleasure of telling you, that I have this day recommended you to the King, for the Bishoprick of that name, now vacant by the translation of its last Bishop to the see of Kildare. I hope my recommendation will not be refused, though I would not swear for it; therefore, do not absolutely depend upon your consecration, and stay quietly where you are till you hear further from me. I assure you, I expect few greater pleasures in the remainder of my life than that I now feel in rewarding your long attachment to me, and, what I value still more, your own merits and virtues.

Yours sincerely.

TO THE REV. DR. CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 229.)

Hague, April 27, N. S. 1745.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I TOLD you at first not to reckon too much upon the success of my recommendation, and I have still more reason to give you the same advice now, for it has met with great difficulties, merely as mine, and I

am far from knowing yet how it will end. Pray, give no answer whatsoever to anybody, that either writes or speaks to you upon that subject, but leave it to me, for I make it my own affair, and you shall have either the Bishoprick of Clonfert, or a better thing, or else I will not be Lord Lieutenant. I hope to be in England in about a fortnight, when this affair must and shall be brought to a decision.* Good-night to you!

Yours, &c.

TO BISHOP CHENEVIX.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 230.)

Hague, May 12, N. S. 1745.

MY GOOD LORD,

Now you are what I had positively declared you should be—a Bishop; but it is Bishop of Killaloe, not Clonfert, the latter refusing the translation. Killaloe, I am assured, is better. I heartily wish you joy, and could not refuse myself that pleasure, though I am in the greatest hurry imaginable, being upon my journey to Helvoet-Sluys for England.† Adieu!

Yours, &c.

* “When the King refused his consent to the making me a Bishop, he directed Lord Harrington, then Secretary of State, to acquaint Lord Chesterfield that he would comply with his application in favour of any one, except me. His Lordship’s answer was, that he would not continue Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, except I had the vacant Bishoprick. One of the reasons given by his Majesty was, because he was told I wrote political pamphlets against the administration, which was absolutely false.” Note by Bishop Chenevix.

† On returning from his embassy, Lord Chesterfield enjoyed the satisfaction of having entirely succeeded in its object. “He has concluded a treaty,” writes Mr. Philip Yorke to the elder Horace Walpole, “regulating the contingents of force and expense for this campaign. I wish it could have been for the whole war. The States

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.*

(Works, vol. iii. p. 62.)

à Londres, ce 24 Juin, V.S. 1745.

IL est bien flatteur pour moi, Madame, de voir que vous vous appercevez seulement de mon silence ; et il me l'est d'autant plus qu'il faut nécessairement que ce soit la justice que vous rendez à mes sentimens, et non ma manière de les exprimer, qui me procure cette attention. Je vous aurois écrit il y a longtems, si un nombre infini de différentes affaires m'eût laissé quelques momens à mon choix ; mais ma part à la régence

"agree to bring 52,000 men into the field (including their corps on "the Lower Rhine) to our 40,000. In sieges they are to furnish one-third, and we the rest. The expense of the land-carriage of artillery "is to be borne by the Government in Flanders." Letter, dated May 16, 1745.

* This lady's father was Monsieur de Cursay, of whom Madame du Deffand says: "Il était gentilhomme, frère de Madame de Pleneuf." (Letters to H. Walpole, vol. iii. p. 239, ed. 1810.) From another passage in the same collection, it appears that the daughter of Madame de Monconseil married the Prince d'Henin (vol. i. p. 109). Horace Walpole himself mentions Madame de Monconseil, as having gone several times to her house at Paris. (To the Hon. H. S. Conway, November 12, 1774.) And as we shall see hereafter, she continued during many years a correspondent of Lord Chesterfield.

It is stated by Dr. Maty in a note to the previous editions, "The "originals of the following letters were sent to me from Paris, by a "noble and respectable friend of the lady to whom they were written. "I was laid by her and him under the disagreeable restriction of "suppressing her name," and accordingly the name has hitherto remained in blank. But on a careful comparison of these letters with other parts of Lord Chesterfield's correspondence (especially the letter to the lady, of August 1, 1751, with that to his son of July 8, in the same year, both of which refer, though in very different terms, to Madame de Cursay's illness) there can remain no doubt whatever as to whom these letters were addressed.

d'ici, et les affaires d'Irlande, où je vais en six semaines, accablent un paresseux comme moi, qui souhaiterois de passer ma vie dans une tranquillité parfaite, et sans autres soins que ceux de la société et de l'amitié.

Vous m'avez envoyé, Madame, le plus parfait contraste du monde, votre lettre, et le discours de Monsieur le Président C——. La clarté accompagne tout ce que vous dites, et Monsieur le Président relève votre *chiaro* d'un *oscuro* unique. Il faut que ce bon homme se soit donné la torture bien longtems pour parvenir à ce point de perfection dans le galimatias. Dieu n'a jamais eu l'intention que l'homme pensât de la sorte, comme il n'a pas voulu non plus qu'on marchât sur les mains avec les pieds en l'air ; mais, moyennant le travail, il y a des gens qui sont venus à bout de l'un et de l'autre. Avec tout cela, ce galimatias dont on se moque chez vous, et dont on se moqueroit également ici, traduit en Italien ou en Espagnol, seroit l'objet de l'admiration de ces deux nations, où depuis deux cent ans on n'a rien écrit de plus juste, ou de plus clair. Le poème de Voltaire* n'est sûrement pas dans ce genre ; il est d'une grande justesse, et je n'ai pas encore vu de gazette, dans laquelle la liste des morts et des blessés, à la bataille de Fontenoy, ait été plus fidèlement et plus simplement détaillée ; je m'imagine que ce n'est que par hasard qu'une relation si exacte est en vers ; et apparemment Voltaire, comme Ovide, fait des vers sans y penser. Je trouve qu'il a beaucoup mieux écrit les relations des batailles de Narva et de Pultowa en prose, puisque la prose convient beaucoup plus à l'histoire.

Je vous assure que je souhaite la paix tout autant

* On the battle of Fontenoy.

que vous ; et je crois que s'il ne tenoit qu'à nous deux de la faire, elle seroit bientôt faite ; mais comme malheureusement elle ne dépend pas absolument de nous, le moyen de l'avoir ? Vous la voulez à votre mode, ce qui ne nous conviendrait nullement : nous la voulons équitable, vous la voulez avantageuse, de sorte que je crains qu'elle ne soit plus éloignée que jamais. Nous ne cherchons que la liberté, et la sûreté de l'Europe, vous n'y cherchez que votre despotisme ; comment donc s'accorder ? Laissez seulement à notre Reine* ce qui lui appartient, et que vous lui avez garanti, et ne demandez pas pour la vôtre,† ce qui ne lui appartient nullement, et alors on pourroit s'accommoder.

Me seroit-il permis, Madame, d'abuser de votre amitié, et de vous consulter, de vous employer, et de vous ennuyer, sur une affaire qui m'intéresse très sensiblement ? Il me semble que vous me répondez qu'oui ; je vais donc au fait ; le voici. J'ai un garçon, qui à cette heure a treize ans ; je vous avouerai naturellement qu'il n'est pas légitime, mais sa mère est une personne bien née, et qui a eu des bontés pour moi que je ne méritois pas. Pour le garçon, peut-être est-ce prévention, mais je le trouve aimable ; c'est une jolie figure, il a beaucoup de vivacité, et je crois de l'esprit pour son âge. Il parle François parfaitement, il sait beaucoup de Latin et de Grec, et il a l'histoire ancienne et moderne au bout des doigts. Il est à présent à l'école, où je compte de le tenir jusqu'au mois de Mai qui vient : mais comme aux écoles ici, et même il faut ajouter, dans ce pays ici, on

* The Queen of Hungary, the ally at that time of England.

† The Queen of Spain.

ne songe pas à former les mœurs ou les manières des jeunes gens, et qu'ils sont presque tous nigauds, gauches et impolis, enfin tels que vous les voyez quand ils viennent à Paris à l'âge de vingt ou vingt-et-un ans, je ne veux pas que mon garçon reste assez ici pour prendre ce mauvais pli, dont on ne se défait guères, dès qu'il est une fois pris. C'est pourquoi quand il aura quatorze ans, je compte de l'envoyer à Paris, et le mettre en pension en quelque bonne maison bourgeoise ; mais comme il sera alors très jeune, et qu'il n'aura pas à beaucoup près fini les études nécessaires, j'enverrai avec lui un Anglois* d'une érudition consommée, qui continuera et augmentera son Latin et son Grec, et qui lui enseignera en même tems sa logique, sa rhétorique, et un peu de philosophie. Ce savant en sera le maître absolu, dans la maison, et toutes les matinées ; mais comme il ne sera guères propre à lui donner des manières, ou si vous le voulez le ton de la bonne compagnie, chose pourtant très nécessaire, et peut-être aussi utile que tout le Grec et le Latin de Monsieur Vadius,† ne pourrois-je pas trouver à Paris quelque homme, ou quelque Abbé, qui (moyennant de l'argent que je lui donnerois volontiers) se chargeroit du soin du garçon depuis quatre heures l'après-midi ; qui le meneroit aux comédies, aux opéras, et même chez vous, si vous vouliez bien lui en accorder la permission ? Comme j'aime infiniment cet enfant, et que je me pique d'en faire quelque chose de bon, puisque je crois que l'étoffe y est, mon idée est de réunir en sa personne ce que jusqu'ici je n'ai jamais trouvé en la même personne ; je veux dire, ce qu'il y a de meilleur

* The Rev. Walter Harte. See note at vol. i. p. 50.

† One of the characters in *Les Femmes Savantes* of Molière.

des deux nations. C'est pourquoi je lui destine son pédant Anglois, qui est d'ailleurs homme d'esprit, pour l'érudition solide que je lui voudrois, et son précepteur François des après-diners, pour lui donner, avec le secours des compagnies où il pourra le mener, cette tournure aisée, ces manières, ces agrémens, que sûrement on ne trouve qu'en France.

Vous ayant ainsi expliqué mon idée, ayez la bonté de me dire, Madame, si vous croyez qu'il y ait moyen de la remplir, et de m'indiquer comment. Pourriez-vous trouver un tel homme, sur lequel on pourroit absolument se reposer? Voudriez-vous avoir aussi la bonté de vous informer de quelque bonne maison bourgeoise, où il y auroit une famille honnête, pour l'y placer? Et, si j'ose le demander, voudriez-vous bien lui permettre d'être quelquefois votre page chez vous le soir, pour donner les cartes, le café, et les chaises? En ce cas là, ce seroit bien sa meilleure école, mais je n'ose pas seulement y penser. Comme sa naissance pourroit lui nuire chez de certaines gens, je crois qu'il vaut mieux ne la pas déclarer, et le donner pour mon neveu, selon l'exemple des Cardinaux; en cela aussi vous me dirigerez.

Vous voyez bien, Madame, et par la longueur et par le contenu de cette lettre, à quel point je compte sur votre amitié ou pour mieux dire, à quel point j'en abuse; mais, convaincu comme j'en suis, les excuses seroient déplacées, et si malheureusement je m'y trompois, les excuses ne me serviroient de rien, je ne vous en fais donc point, et je vous donne le bon soir.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 73.)

à Londres, ce 26 Juillet, V.S. 1745.

IL n'y a que vous, Madame, qui auroit pû non seulement pardonner mon indiscretion, mais même vous y prêter. Vous entrez dans mes petits détails comme s'ils vous étoient personnels, et vous recherchez des soins, dont les amis vulgaires trouveroient bien moyen de s'excuser, sans pourtant blesser les apparences de l'amitié. J'y suis d'autant plus sensible, que je suis persuadé que la véritable amitié se distingue plus dans les petites choses que dans les grandes. On n'ose pas manquer aux grands devoirs de l'amitié, on y perdrait trop du côté de la réputation, mais aussi on les remplit souvent plus par intérêt, que par sentiment, au lieu qu'il y a mille prétextes honnêtes pour éviter les petites attentions, qui seroient très embarrassantes et incommodes, si le sentiment ne leur donnoit même des charmes. Je vous avoue que mon affection, ou si vous le voulez, ma foiblesse pour ce garçon, fait que tout ce qui lui arrive m'est infiniment plus sensible que tout ce qui me pourroit arriver à moi-même, et me fera toujours envisager vos moindres bontés pour lui, comme les marques les plus solides et les plus flatteuses de votre amitié pour moi. Par rapport à son arrivée à Paris, cela dépend sûrement, comme vous dites, de la paix, et si elle ne se fait pas dans un an d'ici, il faudra songer à le placer ailleurs en attendant; et en ce cas là je songe à Genève, mais si la paix se fait avant ce tems là, ce que par mille autres raisons je souhaite, je

tiens qu'il n'y a que Paris pour le bien former. Pour la maison où vous comptez de le placer en pension, je m'en remets entièrement à vous, et cela ne sera pas difficile ; mais je conçois bien les difficultés que vous me montrez au sujet du polisseur. Je ne m'obstine nullement ni à un Abbé, ni à un savant ; je demande seulement un homme d'esprit, soit laïque soit ecclésiastique, qui eût du monde, et qui étant présentable lui-même, pourroit présenter le garçon dans les bonnes compagnies, et lui donner le ton des honnêtes gens. Je serois bien aise aussi qu'il voulût lire avec lui l'histoire moderne, et les ouvrages d'esprit, pour en même tems l'instruire des faits, et lui former le goût. Son Anglois, qui sera avec lui, est un magasin d'érudition Grecque et Latine, et de ce côté là ne déplaira pas à l'Abbé Sallier ; mais il ne pourra jamais l'introduire, ni même l'accompagner chez les gens du monde. A son age il est impossible qu'il y aille seul, surtout aux opéras et aux comédies, où néanmoins il est bon qu'il aille quelquefois. Si un tel homme est à avoir, vous en jugerez mieux que personne, et je m'en rapporte en toute sûreté à votre choix. J'espère qu'il ne se mêlera pas de lui parler au sujet de la religion, puisque ce seroit ruiner le garçon dans ce monde ici, et sûrement sans dédommagement dans l'autre. Je suis entièrement de votre avis que sa naissance soit absolument cachée, et que dans cette vue, il vaut mieux que je passe pour un parent plus éloigné, et son tuteur, que pour son oncle, mais pourtant je ne voudrois pas en imposer à Monsieur de M—— que j'honore trop pour cela, et j'aimerois mieux renoncer à tous les avantages qui résulteroient au garçon d'être le galopin de Monsieur son fils que d'en profiter par abus.

J'ai ordonné à mon écuyer, qui se connoît parfaitement en chevaux, d'en chercher un par toute l'Angleterre, qui réponde autant qu'il est possible aux besoins de Monsieur de Nevers.* Si quelque chose pouvoit ajouter du poids à vos ordres auprès de moi, ce seroit le plaisir de pouvoir être utile dans la moindre chose à une personne du mérite reconnu de Monsieur de Nevers. J'ai mille fois regretté de n'avoir pas eu l'honneur et le plaisir de l'avoir connu personnellement pendant mon petit séjour à Paris; je me ferai sûrement une affaire de réussir dans sa commission, mais pour trouver un cheval précisément tel qu'il le demande, je crains qu'il faudra le chercher avec une lanterne en plein jour, comme le philosophe cherchoit un homme; je ne sais pas même s'il ne seroit pas plus facile de trouver une femme pour un autre, qu'un cheval, parceque peut-être elle est moins nécessaire, et qu'on s'en sert moins! Quand j'en aurai trouvé un, je l'enverrai à Monsieur Wolters à Rotterdam, et vous aurez la bonté immédiatement de faire dire à quelqu'un de s'annoncer au dit Wolters, pour l'homme qui doit recevoir le cheval d'entre ses mains dès qu'il arrivera.

Je pars pour l'Irlande en trois semaines, mais adressez moi les lettres dont vous voudrez bien m'honorer, à Londres, comme à l'ordinaire: elles me font trop de plaisir pour que je ne prenne pas toutes les précautions possibles pour n'en pas perdre une. Adieu, Madame; je vous accable.

* Father of the Duke de Nivernois. He was several years older than Lord Chesterfield.

To DAVID MALLET, ESQ.*

(Mahon's History of England, vol. iii. App. p. 67, second ed.)

Dublin Castle, November 27, 1745.

SIR,

I HAVE just now received the favour of your letter of the 20th, which adds to my shame, for not having sooner acknowledged your former. The truth is, that the business of this place, such as it is, is continual; and as I am resolved to do it while I am here, it leaves me little or no time to do things I should like much better; assuring you of my regard and friendship is one of those things, but though one of the most agreeable, I believe the least necessary.

I cannot comprehend the consternation which 8,000 of your countrymen have, I find, thrown seven millions of mine into;† I, who at this distance, see things only in their plain natural light, am, I confess, under no apprehensions; I consider a Highlander (with submission to you) as Rowe does a Lord, who when opposed to a man, he affirms to be but a man; from which principle I make this inference, that 49,000 must beat 8,000; not to mention our sixteen new regiments, which must go for something, though in my opinion not for much. I have with much difficulty quieted the fears here, which were at first very strong, partly by contagion from England, and partly

* David Malloch, a Scotchman, who in England altered his name to Mallet, is known as a poet of slight merit, and as the literary executor, first of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and afterwards of Lord Bolingbroke. A sketch of his career and writings is given by Dr. Johnson in his *Lives of the Poets*.

† The invasion of England by Prince Charles Stuart and his Highlanders. They were then on their march to Derby.

from old prejudices, which my good subjects are far from being yet above. They are in general still at the year 1689, and have not shook off any religious or political prejudice that prevailed at that time. However, I am very glad I am among them; for in this little sphere, a little may do a great deal of good, but in England they must be much stronger shoulders than mine that can do any good at that bulky machine. Pray let me hear from you as often and as minutely as you have leisure; most correspondents, like most very learned men, suppose that one knows more than one does, and therefore don't tell one half what they could, so one never knows so much as one should.

I am, &c.

TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

(Coxe's Pelham, vol. i. p. 482.)

Dublin Castle, February 18, 1746.

MY DEAR LORD,

THOUGH I threatened you, in my last of the 15th, with a longer letter, this shall not be a very long one; for, besides that I am not, at any time, very fond of my own speculations, all speculations at this distance, and in such a conjuncture, are probably impertinent.* A situation so violent must vary every minute; and

* This letter refers to the rash intrigue of Lords Bath and Granville, in February, 1746, to overthrow the Ministry, and form one of their own. They had the King completely with them, but found on trial a total want of Parliamentary followers, and were compelled to relinquish their attempt only two days after they had commenced it. See a spirited sketch of their proceedings in Horace Walpole's letter to Mann of February 14, 1746. Lord Chesterfield, it appears, wrote his letter at the news of their attempt, and his postscript at the news of their failure.

will, I dare say, be very different, at the time of your receiving this letter, from what it is now, at the time I am writing it.

I am convinced I need not tell you, that the day after my arrival in London, I shall most certainly resign my employment: as to the manner of doing it, I will receive and observe your directions. But this I think necessary to tell you, which is, that though I believe most people have a good opinion enough of me, to take it for granted, that I intend to quit, yet I have not communicated that intention to any one person living, either here or in England, but leave it entirely to you, to publish or not, as you shall think proper. Let me only know which you do, that I may conform myself here to it.

During the rest of my stay here, which shall be as short as I can possibly make it, though it cannot be half so short as I wish it, I must necessarily send my recommendations to my successor, whoever he may be; but I will take care that those recommendations shall be of such a nature only, as that, if they prevail, I shall only have a civility but not an obligation to acknowledge. In the mean time my situation is extremely disagreeable; and God knows when it will end, for I have no great hopes that the Council in England will give much attention or dispatch to my Irish Bills; so that I may possibly have full leisure to learn the language, if I apply myself.

It seems to me impossible that the two Earls can carry on the business, unless they have a strength in Parliament, which I am not aware of; for, I take it for granted, that, by much the greatest part of your old corps will stick to you: and I cannot think that

many of the old Opposition will join them, so that, in my mind, your situation is better than it has been this great while; your way is clearer; you must be called for again, and that upon your own terms.

When that day comes, and I think it cannot be far off, *point de foiblesse humaine, point de quartier*, I beseech you; and let no ill-timed decency, candour, lenity, or heroism, weaken or spoil the best and most solid settlement of an administration, that it was ever in people's power to form. In short, do not be *sub-jectum lenis in hostem*. Adieu, my dear Lord; you have long known me to be what, if possible, I am now more than ever, &c.

My compliments to the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if you please to the whole late Cabinet Council.

P.S.—*Tuesday night*. Just as I was sending away my letter by an express, I received Mr. Stone's of the 14th, which showed me that I was no bad prophet. And, to do honour to my spirit of prophecy, I send you the letter itself, by the common post, which you are again master of. Your victory is complete: for God's sake pursue it. Good policy, still more than resentment, requires that Granville and Bath should be marked out, and all their people cut off. Old Archy* ought too, in my mind, to be made an example of, for more reasons than one. Every body now sees and knows, that you have the power; let them see and know too, that you will use it. The Garters,

* "Lord Barrington comes into the Admiralty in the room of Lord "Archibald Hamilton." Duke of Newcastle to Lord Chesterfield, February 18, 1746; as printed in Coxe's Pelham.

I should think, ought instantly to be properly disposed of, in one way, and the Finches in another. A general run ought to be made upon Bath, by all your followers and writers. If the rebels had pursued their victory at Preston Pans, they might have come to London, and we had been undone, as they are now, by their own neglect. If we had pursued the victory at Dettingen, Fontenoy had never been. As to your humble servant, all he desires for himself is, dispatch to his Irish Bills, of which he will send you another cargo, the latter end of this week.

TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Dublin Castle, March 11, 1746.

MY LORD,

MY office letter to your Grace by this post being, as I hope, the last that I shall trouble you with from hence this season, contains variety of matters, and those of some importance, with regard to this country. Your Grace will therefore give me leave to explain them to you, with that truth which, wherever I am concerned, I desire his Majesty should most minutely know.

The Council door has not been opened of some years, I think seven or eight, and crowds are pressing at it, as it is really a Board of consequence here, being part of the Legislature. Some new members are really wanting, it being sometimes difficult to make up a quorum; but the greatest difficulty of all was,

where to stop. I have at last reduced the number to eight, of which I don't reckon above five effective, which is about the number wanted at the Board.

The Earl of Kildare* applied to me early and strongly: his rank and estate in this country, I thought, left me no room to hesitate, and I readily promised him my recommendation.

The Earl of Kerry† is of a great family, has a great estate, and is a kind of a sovereign in the wild county of Kerry: a very honest man, and very zealous for his Majesty's Government. He is ambitious of the title, more than of the thing itself; for his ill state of health, which is a palsy, will seldom or never let him attend. I think he very well deserves that mark of his Majesty's favour.

Lord Ikerren‡ is son-in-law to the Speaker—has a very good estate, is a very honest man; and, the truth is, the Speaker makes it a point.

The Lords Massarene§ and Powerscourt|| are men of good sense and good estates, and will be of use at the Board. They are both what we call here *Castlemen*—that is, they meddle with no cabals nor parties; but they belong to the Lord-Lieutenant, and as such, in my humble opinion, deserve the favour of the

* James Fitz-Gerald, twentieth Earl of Kildare, created a Marquis in 1761, and in 1766, Duke of Leinster.

† William Fitz-Maurice, second Earl of Kerry. He died in the year following.

‡ Somerset Butler, eighth Viscount Ikerren; in 1748, advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carrick. He had married the daughter of Henry Boyle, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and afterwards created Earl of Shannon.

§ Clotworthy Skeffington, fifth Viscount, and afterwards Earl of Massareene.

|| Richard Wingfield, lately created Viscount Powerscourt.

Government in this case; and the more so, as they ask for nothing else.

Lord Limerick* applies himself much to the business of this country, promotes the manufactures, and is in that way so efficient a man, that it seems as much the desire of most people, as his own, that he should have a place at that Board.

Lord Hillsborough† has a very considerable estate in this country, and his relations here, particularly Mr. Hill, his uncle, have credit and influence. They make it their request; and I look upon his admission there to be more nominal than real, as I believe he will be more in England than here.

Lord Viscount Fitzwilliam,‡ who likewise will, I believe, seldom take his seat, I fairly confess I recommend, at the earnest instances of his relations in England, though he has a very good estate here, and is a most unexceptionable person.

I assure your Grace I have no favourite among them, and my recommendation proceeds singly from the motives I have mentioned.

The Earl of Grandison's§ application for a Viscountship for his daughter, Lady Betty Mason, seems to me so reasonable with regard to him, and of so little consequence to anybody else, that I own I have given him some reason to hope for that mark of

* James Hamilton, Viscount Limerick, and afterwards Earl of Clanbrassil.

† Wills Hill, second Viscount Hillsborough, and afterwards Marquis of Downshire.

‡ Richard Fitzwilliam, sixth Viscount Fitzwilliam.

§ John Villiers, fifth Viscount and first Earl of Grandison. According to Lord Chesterfield's recommendation, his daughter, Lady Elizabeth Mason, was, in April 1746, created in her own right Viscountess Grandison.

his Majesty's favour. His estate here is at least eight thousand pounds a year. Mr. Mason, who married his daughter, has four: all which will centre in the son by that daughter. Lord Grandison's present Viscountship goes at his death to Lord Jersey. This request of his, therefore, seems to be a very common, and, so far at least a pardonable, piece of human vanity, often indulged in other cases, and I hope will be so in this.

The new Barrack Patent is a thing of absolute necessity for his Majesty's military service here. I should be a great deal too tedious if I were to state to your Grace a tenth part of that affair. I will therefore only say, that this new Patent, together with some other regulations I am making here, is the only probable method of preventing for the future the enormous abuses of the Barrack Board.

The Dublin Society is really a very useful establishment. It consists of many considerable people, and has been kept up hitherto by voluntary subscriptions. They give premiums for the improvement of lands, for plantations, for manufactures. They furnish many materials for those improvements in the poorer and less cultivated parts of this kingdom, and have certainly done a great deal of good. The bounty they apply for to his Majesty is five hundred pounds a year, which, in my humble opinion, would be properly bestowed; but I entirely submit it.

As to the applications of the Earls of Cavan* and Rosse,† and Lord Mayo,‡ all I can say for them is,

* Ford Lambart, fifth Earl of Cavan.

† Richard Parsons, second Earl of Rosse.

‡ Theobald Bourke, seventh Viscount Mayo.

that they have nothing of their own—that they are part of the furniture of this House of Lords, which if his Majesty thinks proper to put in a little better repair, he will at the same time do a real act of compassion.

The few small pensions are too trifling to mention : they are the usual charities of the Government, and at the same time lay some obligations upon more considerable people who solicit them ; and the establishment can very well bear them.

Having now finished, as I hope, all my recommendations for some time, I must beg leave to assure your Grace that they are, every one of them the recommendations of his Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant only, and that I am neither directly nor indirectly, in my private capacity, concerned in any one of them. I have neither retainer, friend, nor favourite among them.

I have one request more to trouble your Grace with, which indeed concerns myself singly, and that is, that your Grace will be pleased to apply to his Majesty for his gracious permission for me to return to England, to lay myself at his feet.* I shall by that time have been here near eight months, during which time I have endeavoured to carry on his Majesty's service : If I have failed it must have been only from want of abilities ; for my zeal, I am sure, was not wanting, and I must, with the warmest and most respectful gratitude, acknowledge that his Majesty's indulgence

* According to the permission here solicited, Lord Chesterfield set out from Dublin, a few weeks after the date of this letter, and arrived at his house, in Grosvenor Square, on April 30, 1746. It is much to be regretted that the preceding letter is the only one in this collection, giving an account of public business during his Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland.

to all my recommendations has given me all the credit and weight I was capable of receiving.

I am, with the greatest truth and respect, &c.

P.S.—I have received the honour of your Grace's letter of the 5th, relating to the embargo, and have given the proper orders thereupon.

TO THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 332.)

London, June 14, 1746.

SIR,

I THANK you for the favour of your letter, with the inclosed scheme for carrying on the war; which if others approved of as much as I do, and the present situation of the war permitted, would be soon put in execution.

As you are one of the few in Ireland, who always think of the public, without any mixture of private interest; I do not doubt but that you have already thought of some useful methods of employing the King's bounty to the Dublin Society. The late additional tax upon glass here, as it must considerably raise the price of glass-bottles imported into Ireland, seems to point out the manufacturing them there; which consideration, with a small premium added to it, would, in my mind, set up such a manufacture. Fine writing and printing paper, we have often talked of together; and the specimen you gave me, before I

* Mr. Prior, who had a good estate in Ireland, and appears to have been a most upright and respectable country gentleman, was particularly distinguished by Lord Chesterfield, during his Lord-Lieutenancy.

left Dublin, proves, that nothing but care and industry is wanting, to bring that manufacture to such a perfection as to prevent the exportation of it from Holland, and through Holland from France; nay, I am convinced that you might supply England with a great deal if you pleased, that is, if you would make it, as you could do, both good and cheap. Here is a man who has found out a method of making starch of potatoes, and, by the help of an engine of his own invention, to make a prodigious quantity of it in a day. But here is an Act of Parliament which strictly prohibits the making starch of any thing but flour. Have you such an Act of Parliament in Ireland? If you have not, and that you import your starch from England, as I take it for granted that you do, for you import everything that you can, it would be well worth this man's while to go to Ireland, and advantageous for you that he should; his starch being to my knowledge and experience full as good, and abundantly cheaper than any other.

These are the sorts of jobs that I wish people in Ireland would attend to with as much industry and care, as they do to jobs of a very different nature. These honest arts would solidly increase their fortunes, and improve their estates, upon the only true and permanent foundation, the public good. Leave us and your regular forces in Ireland to fight for you: think of your manufactures at least as much as of your militia, and be as much upon your guard against Poverty as against Popery; take my word for it, you are in more danger of the former than of the latter.

I hope my friend, the Bishop of Meath,* goes on

* Dr. Henry Maule.

prosperously with his Charter-schools. I call them his, for I really think that without his care and perseverance they would hardly have existed now. Though their operation is sure, yet, being slow, it is not suited to the Irish taste of *the time present only*; and I cannot help saying, that, except in your claret, which you are very solicitous should be two or three years old, you think less of two or three years hence than any people under the sun. If they would but wish themselves as well as I wish them; and take as much pains to promote their own true interest, as I should be glad to do to contribute to it, they would in a few years be in a very different situation from that which they are in at present. Go on, however, you and our other friends; be not weary of well-doing, and though you cannot do all the good you would, do all the good you can.

When you write to the most worthy Bishop of Cloyne,* pray assure him of my truest regard and esteem, and remember me to my honest and indefatigable friend in good works Doctor Madden; and be persuaded yourself, that I am, with sincere friendship and regard, &c.

TO THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 335.)

London, July 15, 1746.

SIR,

I ACKNOWLEDGE the favour of your two letters, of the 3rd and 5th; they were doubly welcome to me, as coming from one, who I know wishes so well to the public as you do, and as they brought me good ac-

* Dr. Berkeley.

counts of the progress you make in your public-spirited views. The manufacture of glass-bottles cannot possibly fail, but from want of care and industry ; for as the price of glass-bottles is risen considerably here, upon account of the new duty, if you would but make them in Ireland, you are sure of sale for them ; and I should hope, at least, that considering the close connection there is between bottles and claret, this manufacture, *though your own*, may meet with encouragement. I think you are in the right to do it as quickly as can be, and to give your premiums without publishing them, not to alarm our glass people here ; though in truth it could never be thought reasonable, nor would it, I dare say, ever be attempted, here to prohibit any manufactures in Ireland, merely for home consumption.

The paper you gave me in Ireland, though good, was not so good as it should, and as I am sure it might be with care. It was too spongy and bibulous, which proceeds only from want of care, in choosing and sorting the best rags. Some premiums for this purpose will have a great effect ; and I am convinced that, if this manufacture were carefully and diligently pursued, you might in time not only entirely supply yourselves, but us too, with great part of that paper which we now take from Holland and other countries. But then, indeed, you must make it cheap as well as good, and, contrary to your custom, content yourselves with less present profit, in order to get possession of a future and permanent advantage.

I have not yet taken any step concerning the Charter for the Dublin Society, and I confess to you I have great doubts about it. Your Society, as it is, does so

very well, that I am afraid of touching it. However, if you and others, who, I am sure, mean well, and can judge well, think upon the whole that a Charter would be beneficial, I will endeavour to get one.

You did extremely right to open the Spaniard's letter to me, and, in consequence of it, to proceed in that humane manner with him. His post was a very considerable one in the West Indies, and is never given but to people of consideration. In that light he deserves to have regard shown him; but still more, in my mind, from being unfortunate. I have writ to him by this post, in answer to his. As you tell me that part of the cargo of the ship is snuff, which I should think must be good, I shall be obliged to you, if, when it comes to be sold, you will send me twenty pounds of the strongest and the deepest coloured, and ask Mr Lingen for the money.

The death of the King of Spain* must produce good effects in Italy at least.

I received a very kind letter from my Charter-school Apostle, the Bishop of Meath, which I have not time to answer by this post, but I will soon.

I am, with the esteem which you deserve, &c.

TO THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 337.)

London, July 26, 1746.

SIR,

I RECEIVED by the last post the favour of your letter of the 17th, with the inclosed account of the premiums offered for 1746. I think them all per-

* Philip V. King of Spain had died on the 9th of July, N. S.

fectly right, and, as I told you in my last, I think you will do well to pursue the manufacture of glass bottles, with as little noise as possible. I heartily wish you success, and am, very truly,

Your faithful and humble servant.

To THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 338.)

London, September 23, 1746.

SIR,

A LONG and dangerous illness has hindered me from acknowledging, till now, your last letters; and though I am a great deal better, I still feel, by extreme weakness, the shock which that illness has given to a constitution too much shattered before.

Pray be under no kind of uneasiness as to the accident that happened to my letter, for I assure you I am under none myself. I confess, the printing of a letter carelessly and inaccurately written, in the freedom and confidence of a friendly correspondence, is not very agreeable, especially to me, who am so idle and negligent in my familiar letters, that I never wrote one over twice in my life, and am consequently often guilty both of false spelling and false English; but as to my sentiments with regard to Ireland, I am not only willing, but desirous, that all Ireland should know them. I very well recollect the two paragraphs in my letter, which might be objected to by many people; but I recollect them without retracting them. I repeat it again, that there are not many people there, who, like you, employ their thoughts, their time, and their labour, merely for the public

good, without any private view. The condition of Ireland sufficiently proves that truth. How different would the state of your lands, your trade, your manufactures, your arts and sciences, have been now from what it is, had they been the objects of general, as they have been of your particular, attention! I still less recant what I said about claret, which is a known and melancholy truth; and I could add a great deal more upon that subject. Five thousand tuns of wine imported *communibus annis* into Ireland, is a sure, but indecent, proof of the excessive drinking of the gentry there, for the inferior sort of people cannot afford to drink wine there, as many of them can here; so that these five thousand tuns of wine are chiefly employed in destroying the constitutions, the faculties, and too often the fortunes, of those of superior rank, who ought to take care of all the others. Were there to be a contest between public cellars and public granaries, which do you think would carry it? I believe you will allow that a Claret Board, if there were one, would be much better attended than the Linen Board, *unless when flax-seed were to be distributed*. I am sensible that I shall be reckoned a very shallow politician, for my attention to such trifling objects, as the improvement of your lands, the extension of your manufactures, and the increase of your trade, which only tend to the advantages of the public; whereas an able Lord-Lieutenant ought to employ his thoughts in greater matters. He should think of jobs for favourites, sops for enemies, managing parties, and engaging Parliaments to vote away their own and their fellow-subjects' liberties and properties. But these great arts of Government, I confess, are above me,

and people should not go out of their depth. I will modestly be content with wishing Ireland all the good that is possible, and with doing it all the good I can; and so weak am I, that I would much rather be distinguished and remembered by the name of the *Irish Lord-Lieutenant*, than by that of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

My paper puts me in mind that I have already troubled you too long, so I conclude abruptly, with assuring you that I am, with the truest esteem, &c.

TO SIR THOMAS ROBINSON* (AT VIENNA).

(Now first printed.)

Whitehall, October 31, 1746.

SIR,

THE King having been pleased, upon my Lord Harrington's resignation, to pitch upon me, though very undeserving, to receive the Seals of the Northern

* At the date of this letter, Lord Chesterfield had, against his own inclination, exchanged the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland, for the Seals of Secretary of State. An account of this affair is given by Lord Marchmont in his Diary from Lord Chesterfield's own confidential narrative. "He said, that his conduct in Ireland, had quite softened the King to him, and particularly the letter he writ over here, whereby he put a stop to Lord Kildare's regiment, and the other 'mob-regiments' as he called them; and that whilst there all his recommendations had been like so many nominations, not one having been refused; that on his arrival here, the Duke of Newcastle had spoke to him of being Secretary, if Lord Harrington quitted or was turned out; and that he had refused it, saying he would keep Ireland as long as he was in place, for he liked it." Lord Chesterfield then proceeded to relate in detail how Lord Harrington (against whom the King had conceived a strong aversion), actually did resign, and how when the Duke of Newcastle asked the King whom he thought of to succeed him, the King said, "I think it must be Chesterfield." Mr. Pelham also told him "that he (Lord

Province, I take this first opportunity of acquainting you with it, and desiring the favour of your correspondence, assuring you that you shall find me always punctual in signifying the King's commands to you for your guidance, and ready to show you, upon all occasions, with how much truth and esteem I am, &c.

P.S.—I send you herewith enclosed an extract of a letter from Mr. Villettes to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, by which his Majesty sees with great concern the slowness of the Austrians in marching their contingent for putting in execution the important plan of entering Provence, and at the same time observes the resolution expressed by the King of Sardinia for carrying it into execution. It is therefore the King's pleasure that you should forthwith make the strongest representations to the Court of Vienna, pressing them in the King's name to expedite, by immediate and positive orders to their Generals, the operations intended upon the French territories, that this great opportunity may not be lost of striking such an important blow whilst the consternation is so great, and the defence so weak, in those parts of France, and whilst the King of Sardinia is ready and willing to concur in it.

"Chesterfield) must accept, or he (Mr. Pelham) could not continue "in; and that for this reason he did accept of the Seals, but desired "to go in to the King alone. . . . He there said, he must take the "liberty to capitulate with his Majesty, that as he came in to serve "his Majesty, and not himself, he desired that whenever he found his "service either not agreeable or not useful to him, he might take the "liberty to resign the Seals, without its being taken for an affront or "disgust at the particular time; to which the King answered, 'Then "'take the Seals, for I can believe *you*'—which expression the King "has often repeated since with particular emphasis." (Lord Marchmont's Private Diary, August 30, 1747.)

You are likewise to represent to the Imperial Minister that his Majesty is very desirous that Maréchal Bathiany may have orders to repair to the Hague, and to continue there for the settlement and regulation, in concert with his Majesty and the States, of the preparations necessary to be made for the ensuing campaign.

TO F. LAWRENCE, ESQ. (AT BERLIN).

(Now first printed.)

Whitehall, November 21, 1746.

SIR,

M. ANDRIE* having some time ago represented to the King how agreeable it would be to his Prussian Majesty, if the King would be pleased to remove you from his Court, and employ you elsewhere, and the said Minister, having now again repeated by order of his Master his instances upon this subject, in the most earnest manner, I am to let you know that his Majesty has thought fit to give the King of Prussia this instance of his willingness to gratify him in the said request, and therefore, that it is the King's pleasure, that upon receiving this letter, you should prepare without loss of time, to leave the Court of Berlin, acquainting, however, Count Podewils first, and the other Prussian Ministers, with these his Majesty's orders now signified to you.

But as his Majesty is pleased to be satisfied with your zeal and diligence in his service, I am at the same time to acquaint you with his Majesty's intentions in consideration thereof, of employing you at the

* Prussian Minister in London.

Court of Saxony, and that it is the King's pleasure that you accordingly repair to Dresden, where the King is graciously pleased to intend that you shall continue to enjoy the same appointments which you now have at the Court of Berlin.*

I am, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 79.)

à Londres, ce 28 Novembre, V.S. 1746.

JE vous remercie, Madame, tout simplement, parce que c'est du fond de mon cœur, de l'intérêt que voulez bien prendre à ma santé, qui est passablement bien rétablie, malgré tous les soins de la faculté, qui m'a traité dans toutes les formes.

Votre ami est relâché sur sa parole, aussi bien que tous les autres officiers, de façon que vous ne m'en avez point d'obligation particulière. Je ne puis pas vous dire s'ils sont encore partis, mais je sais qu'ils n'attendoient pour cela qu'un vaisseau de cartel. Ayez la bonté, Madame, d'assurer Madame de Martel de mes très humbles respects, et de lui dire qu'elle m'a fait un véritable plaisir en me chargeant de ses ordres; que j'ai envoyé sa lettre dans le moment que je l'ai reçue à Monsieur son fils, l'accompagnant

* For a considerable time afterwards, George the Second stubbornly refused to appoint any new Envoy at Berlin. "Lord Chesterfield said "to me that our King would not send King Frederick a Minister, "calling him a '*fripou*,' and wished he was Cham of Tartary! Lord "Chesterfield told the King he wished so too, but as he was King of "Prussia, the more he was a '*fripou*, the more necessary it was to have "a Minister who was a spy at his Court!" (Diary of Lord Marchmont, November 29, 1747.)

d'une de ma part, pour lui offrir mes services, et pour le prier de ne me pas ménager. Je languis de recevoir les ordres que vous me promettez dans votre dernière, parceque vous me dites que c'est sur quelque chose qui vous regarde personnellement. Bon soir, Madame, je suis obligé bien malgré moi de ne vous plus retenir.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 81.)

à Londres, ce 2 Decembre, V. S. 1746.

DE la façon que vous vous y prenez toujours, Madame, vous ne laissez à vos amis et serviteurs que le seul mérite de la reconnoissance. J'en suis un exemple ; j'avois la plume à la main pour vous communiquer, comme à la personne du monde à laquelle je souhaite de témoigner par préférence mes premières attentions, le changement de ma destination, quand je reçus l'honneur de votre lettre du 26 passé, qui me marquoit d'une manière si flatteuse la part que vous y preniez. Cette lettre, la plus aimable, et la plus amicale, qui ait jamais été écrite, me causa des mouvemens de plaisir, et en même tems de honte, que je ne puis pas vous exprimer. Il me fallut d'abord changer mon premier arrangement ; prévenu comme je l'étois, et honteux de n'avoir que la reconnoissance en partage ; pour cette reconnoissance, soyez persuadée, Madame, qu'elle est vraie et vive.

Me voici donc tiré d'un poste honorable, lucratif, et dont les fonctions ne prenoient pas trop sur le tems que j'aime à donner aux douceurs de la société, ou

même de la paresse. J'y avois en même tems loisir et dignité, au lieu qu'à present je me trouve placé sur un piédestal public, dans un certain point de vue, que ma figure, qui comme vous le savez bien, n'est nullement colossale, ne pourra guères soutenir, et accablé par-dessus le marché d'un travail également au-dessus des forces de mon corps, et de mon esprit. Faut-il donc me féliciter, ou ne faut-il pas plutôt me plaindre ?

Vous me demandez la paix comme si je l'avois en poche ; je voudrois bien l'y avoir. Si vous voulez la prendre telle que je vous la donnerois, vous l'aurez dès demain ; mais malheureusement vous voulez que nous la prenions de vous telle que vous nous la voulez donner, et voilà ce que nous ne voulons pas plus que vous ne voulez de la nôtre. Dans cette différence de sentiments, je doute fort si les plénipotentiaires à Breda* seront assez habiles pour constater un certain milieu raisonnable ; et il me semble que vous nous forcerez à renvoyer cette négociation à cent quarante mille plénipotentiaires que nous aurons en Flandres, et à soixante mille autres qui vont actuellement négocier en Provence. Je ne doute nullement que vous n'envoyiez à leur rencontre un nombre égal de ministres, que vous croyez aussi habiles qu'eux, et le résultat de ces conférences sera sûrement plus intéressant et plus décisif, que ne le seroit celui des conférences de Breda. Pour dire deux mots sérieusement sur cet article, voici la vérité du fait. J'avoue vos succès en Flandres, avouez moi aussi vos pertes en Italie. Vous voulez une paix sur le pied de vos succès ; une telle paix nous seroit aussi funeste que la campagne la plus mal-

* Conferences for a peace had been recently opened at Breda ; but, as Lord Chesterfield predicted, they led to no useful result.

heureuse, et il vaut mieux tenter l'une que de se soumettre à l'autre. Pour faire montre de ma lecture, je vous remarquerai, que c'étoit la maxime des Romains de ne jamais faire la paix que victorieux ; peut-être pousoient-ils cette idée quelquefois trop loin, mais au fond ils s'en sont bien trouvés. Ne croyez pas au reste que je cherche plaies et bosses, au contraire je vous assure que je suis pacifique, et que je me croirois bien heureux de pouvoir contribuer à une paix qui fût solide, et qui ne bouleversât pas l'équilibre de l'Europe.

Assurez, je vous en supplie, Madame, de mes très humbles respects, et de ma parfaite reconnoissance, ces personnes également aimables et respectables, qui ont bien voulu se souvenir de moi. Pour vous même, je ne puisque vous réitérer la continuation des mêmes sentimens, que vous me connoissez depuis longtems ; rien n'y peut ajouter ; et le tems, ni l'absence n'y peuvent donner la moindre atteinte. Bon soir, Madame.

TO THE REV. DR. MADDEN.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 344.)

London, December 12, 1746.

CAN you forgive me, my dear Dr. Madden, what I can scarcely forgive myself ; I mean having so long delayed my acknowledgments for your first very friendly letter ? but, though I am blameable, I am

* Dr. Samuel Madden was the first institutor of the Dublin Society, and allowed Premiums for useful objects from his own far from ample fortune. Few men have more sincerely desired, or more honourably pursued, the good of Ireland. He was born in 1687, and died in 1765.

not quite so much so as by the length of time it would seem, when you consider my long and dangerous illness, and, since my recovery, the multiplicity of business which the late change of my situation has brought upon me.

I can with the strictest truth assure you, that my sentiments of esteem and friendship for you are in no degree lessened, and I am sure never will be, since they are founded upon your love and zeal for mankind in general, and your country and friends in particular, which I am sure will never end but with your life. I have read your work with great satisfaction ; it is full† * * *

A concurrence of circumstances has obliged me to change an easy for a laborious employment, in which too, I fear, it will be much less in my power to do good, than it was in my former. It may seem vain to say so, but I will own that I thought I could, and began to hope that I should, do some good in Ireland. I flattered myself that I had put jobs a little out of fashion, and your own manufactures a little in fashion, and that I had in some degree discouraged the pernicious and beastly practice of drinking, with many other pleasing visions of public good. At least I am sure I was earnest in my wishes, and would have been assiduous in my endeavours for it. Fortune, chance, or Providence, call it which you will, has removed me from you, and has assigned me another destination ; but has not, I am sure, changed my inclinations, my wishes, or my efforts, upon occasion, for the interest and prosperity of Ireland ; and I shall always retain

† In this, and also in a following passage, a part of the original letter appears to have been accidentally torn.

the truest affection for, and remembrance of, that country; I wish I could say of that rich, flourishing, and industrious nation. I hope it will in time be so, and I even think it makes some progress that way, though not so quick as I could wish; but, however, there are righteous enough to save the city, and the examples of you, and many of your friends, will, I hope, prove happily and beneficially contagious. I did flatter myself, a little before my removal, that I should * * *

Continue me, dear Sir, your friendship and remembrance, which I will say that in some degree I deserve, by the sincere regard and esteem with which I am, &c.

P.S.—Pray make my compliments to the worthy Bishop of Meath, to whom I will write soon, and likewise to my friend Mr. Prior.

TO THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 340.)

London, January 10, 1747.

SIR,

THE person who will deliver you this letter is a most skilful mechanic, and has made many useful discoveries. He is going to try his fortune in Ireland, and desired me to recommend him to somebody there. I could not refuse him, knowing his ingenuity; and then, whom could I recommend him to so well as to my good friend Mr. Prior, the disinterested and zealous patron of all good and useful things? I really think he may be of use to the Dublin Society,

who I know are of very great use to the public. If he should prove so, well and good; so far only I recommend him to you eventually. This obligation, however, I have to him, that he has given me an opportunity of assuring you of the continuance of that esteem and regard with which I am,

Yours, &c.

TO THE EARL OF SANDWICH.*

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Whitehall, January 27, 1747.

MY LORD,

I RECEIVED the day before yesterday your Lordship's letter of the 31st, N.S., and laid it before the King, who has commanded me to send you, in the utmost confidence, the following instructions thereupon.

It is very true, as the Pensionary† observed, that the armistice was mentioned by Monsieur Puisieux in conversation, and not proposed in form; but it is as true, too, that the real intentions of a Court may often be better guessed at by the conversation than by the conferences of its Ministers; and as at this time particularly an armistice, if obtained, would be very advantageous to France, and if only proposed

* John Montagu, fourth Earl of Sandwich (so well known in after years as First Lord of the Admiralty) had been sent in August 1746, as Envoy Extraordinary to the States of Holland. He was also the British Plenipotentiary at the conferences of Breda.

† The Pensionary Slingelandt, the intimate friend of Lord Chesterfield, had died in 1736, and been succeeded by M. Van der Heim.—See Coxe's *Life of Lord Walpole of Wolterton*, p. 203. A few years afterwards M. Van der Heim was in his turn succeeded by M. Gilles.

might have some effect upon timid and desponding minds, there is no doubt but that Monsieur Puisieux, in mentioning the armistice, spoke the real intention of his Court, however carelessly he might seem to drop it in conversation only. Upon this point I can add nothing to his Majesty's orders, which I sent your Lordship in my letter of the 13th inst., which are absolutely to reject any such proposal, whenever it should be made.

The King entirely approves of the answer which your Lordship made to the Pensionary upon the renewal of his instances for specific proposals of peace; and I may acquaint you, in confidence, that his Majesty cannot help being a little surprised at the Pensionary respecting these instances at this juncture. The King knows the abilities and the firmness of that Minister, and therefore ascribes his impatience for specific proposals upon certain points to the impotency of others less able than he to see through the designs of France, and (it may be) less willing to defeat them.

The Pensionary owned to your Lordship, that he thought "that the exact discussion of certain points "was not advisable, but still seemed to think some "answer necessary." His Majesty, who is as desirous of peace as the Pensionary, and whose disproportionate burthen of the war is an undoubted pledge of his sincere desire to end it, would be very glad if any points could be found out as *materia tractandi*, the discussion of which might produce very good effects, or even not be attended by very ill consequences, in the present important crisis; and the King would make no difficulty of opening himself in confidence

to the Pensionary, upon any points upon which his Majesty could himself form an opinion. But in the present situation of affairs, in which every day may produce some material variation, it is as impossible to form a resolution what to ask, or what to take, as it would be imprudent eventually to declare it.

Can anybody say what establishment Don Philip should have in Italy, or whether any, at a time when the French and Spaniards are drove out of Italy, and when the Allies have an army in Provence, the good or ill success of which must necessarily determine that question?

The object of Cape Breton, in which his Majesty's honour and the commercial interests of this nation are so highly concerned, is a point upon which at this time, more peculiarly than at any other during the whole course of the war, it is unreasonable to expect that his Majesty should open himself. Now that affairs have taken so favourable a turn in Italy, and present for the first time so favourable a prospect in Flanders, is it a season for his Majesty to think of yielding up so valuable a possession, acquired singly by his own arms and at his own expense? The reasoning upon this point in Holland seems very unfair; and if an object of equal importance to their commerce were in question, they would not admit that mode of reasoning from any of their Allies. * * *

I am, &c.

TO THE EARL OF HYNDFORD.*

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Whitehall, March 10, 1747.

MY LORD,

YOUR Excellency will have seen by the copy of my letter to Mr. Guy Dickens, which I sent you two posts ago, that the present designs of France and Prussia are to disturb as soon as possible the tranquillity of the North by the means of Sweden, and that in this view France is actually employing its money, and the King of Prussia his skill, (and the latter is likewise ready to exert his force,) as soon as the Triple Alliance now forming between the Powers above-mentioned, at Stockholm, shall be finally concluded.

* * * * *

His Majesty suggests whether it might not be proper to sound the intentions of the King of Denmark in particular. That Prince, though at present under a subsidiary engagement with the French Court for two years longer, is by no means in his heart inclined to the French system, but may by degrees be insensibly engaged too far in it if he sees himself neglected by other powers.

The Court of Russia is not ignorant that the Duchy of Sleswick, the present possession of Denmark, is guaranteed in the most solemn manner to this last Crown by several great Powers, and, if I mistake not, by Russia in particular.

This therefore being the case, the Great Duke of

* John Carmichael, third Earl of Hyndford (at that time British Minister at the Court of Russia) was born in 1701, and died without issue in 1767.

Russia would renounce very little in renouncing what is already guaranteed to Denmark by Russia itself, and therefore the King has the less reason to suppose that the Imperial Prince will have any difficulty to adopt this measure. But if he should, his dependence still is so great upon Russia, and his interest so considerable in the prosperity of the affairs of that Empire that his Majesty thinks that the Empress may very properly and reasonably require that complaisance from him, and if the King of Denmark by this complaisance on his part could be gained to accede, the King is persuaded that such a system might now be established and consolidated in the North as would effectually serve to secure the peace of these parts, and frustrate and defeat the designs of France and Russia through Sweden to give any disturbance to it.

It is therefore his Majesty's pleasure that your Excellency should take the first opportunity of mentioning what forms the subject of this dispatch to the Chancellor Bestucheff, in the utmost confidence, and to him only ; and you will transmit an account to me, without loss of time, how far that Minister relishes this idea, and whether he will support this measure effectually with the Czarina. And your Excellency may observe to Monsieur Bestucheff upon this occasion that the danger to Russia is greater and nearer than they seem to imagine and that therefore, if your Court have any regard for their own security, after the many friendly advices which his Majesty has ordered to be communicated to them, it is necessary and incumbent upon them to take measures in time to break the storm which is gathering over them.

I am, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MONCONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 85.)

à Londres, ce 13 Avril, V. S. 1747.

AU lieu de vous plaindre de moi, vous devez me plaindre, Madame, de ce que la malice des affaires fait si souvent diversion à mon objet principal, qui est celui de vous assurer de mes respects. Respects ! le terme ne me plaît pas, et me semble même injurieux à des sentimens d'amitié aussi vifs et aussi délicats que les miens ; ce sont donc ces sentimens, et non pas mon respect, que je voudrois vous réitérer chaque jour de poste, si mes affaires d'un côté, et ma discrétion à votre égard de l'autre, me le permettoient.

Je cherche encore un cheval pour Monsieur de Nevers, mais jusqu'ici inutilement, et vous croirez bien que ce n'est pas faute de soin, puisque assurément il n'y a pas de peine que je ne me donnasse pour lui procurer le moindre plaisir. A propos de lui, me pardonneriez-vous la liberté que je prends d'envoyer sous votre enveloppe ces deux lettres pour Monsieur le Duc de Nivernois, et Monsieur le Chevalier de Mirabeau, qui m'ont tous deux fait l'honneur de m'écrire les lettres du monde les plus obligeantes ? Je ne sais pas où les adresser autrement ; le port même vous en sera couteux, mais je consens que vous tirez une lettre de change sur moi pour trois livres tournois, pourvu que vous m'en donniez avis par une lettre qui ne se paye pas, comme sont toutes les vôtres. A propos de lettres, je suis irrité contre vous : j'ai ouvert une lettre qui m'étoit adressée de votre main, avec mon avidité ordinaire pour tout ce qui vient de vous,

et j'y trouve seulement une lettre pour la Duchesse de Richmond, sans un seul mot pour moi-même. J'ai été sur le point de m'en venger en ne la lui envoyant pas ; mais après y avoir pensé un peu, j'ai cru que si elle faisoit la moitié du cas seulement de vos lettres que j'en fais, le coup seroit trop noir. Bon soir, Madame !

TO THE EARL OF SANDWICH.

Private.

(Now first printed.)

Whitehall, April 24, 1747.

MY LORD,

I RECEIVED this morning, and laid before the King, your Lordships' letters to me of the 2nd of May, N. S.

As to the Republic's demand of succours from his Majesty, the establishment of the forces here is so low that it will be very difficult to send over any body of troops ; but his Majesty has that matter under his consideration at present, and will, if possible, show his friendship and attention for the Republic in that respect. But it must be considered, on the other hand, that if his Majesty should weaken himself at home to a degree of tempting an invasion from abroad, the necessary consequence would affect the Dutch so much as us, as in that case the King would be obliged, as he was during the last rebellion, to send for a very considerable number of his troops home for his own defence.

The King entirely approves of your Lordship's thought of protecting, as far as is possible for him to do, the Dutch trade ; and his Majesty has accordingly sent orders to the Admiralty that they should order

our men-of-war to take under their convoy, when they are to sail with any of our trade, all Dutch ships that are bound their way, and are ready and willing to accompany them.

Your Lordship will be pleased to acquaint the Pensionary, and such other principal Members of the Republic as you shall think proper, with these his Majesty's kind intentions for the service of the States; and his Majesty doubts not but you will give this step its full value in Holland.

The King is very well pleased to observe by your Lordship's letter, that the election of the Prince of Orange for Stadtholder of the Province of Holland, goes so unanimously and so quietly through the several towns of that Province,* and that, in all probability, his Highness will, in a very short time, be Stadtholder of all the Seven Provinces, which must naturally not only unite them among themselves, but strengthen the union between his Majesty and the Republic, and remove those causes of distrust and jealousy which have lately been so detrimental to the common cause.

I am, &c.

* In April, 1747, the advance of the French armies against Holland produced nearly the same effect as nearly the same cause had produced in 1672. The people rose in arms, first in Zealand, and next at Rotterdam and the Hague, and proclaimed the Prince of Orange as Stadtholder and Captain General with such unanimity that the Deputies, however reluctant, were compelled to ratify and confirm his nomination. Shortly afterwards a law was passed rendering the dignity hereditary in his house, and even enabling the widow of a Stadtholder to direct affairs in the minority of her son, with the title of *Gouvernante*—a case which actually occurred in Holland only four years afterwards. *Par cette révolution, says Voltaire, les Provinces Unies devinrent une espèce de monarchie mixte, moins restreinte à beaucoup d'égards que celles d'Angleterre, de Suède et de Pologne.* (Siècle de Louis XV. ch. xxiii.)

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 15.)

London, May 4, O. S. 1747.

MR. RESIDENT,

I HAVE finished your affair this morning :* it went easy, and you must go very soon. Come to town immediately upon the receipt of this, and wind up your own private bottoms as well as you can in the meantime, for you must go on Friday *Je vous en félicite*. Adieu !

TO THOS. PRIOR, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 341.)

London, May 6, 1747.

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I HAVE been long in your debt, and am ashamed of it ; but I am sure you do me too much justice to suspect me of either fraud or negligence. The truth is, that I have as little command of time as many people have of money, and, though my intentions are honest, I am often forced by necessity to be a very bad paymaster.

I desire that the Dublin Society will dispose of the trifle that I gave them in the manner they shall think proper. They are the best judges, and have shown themselves so by all their past conduct. They have done more good to Ireland, with regard to arts and industry, than all the laws that could have been formed ; for, unfortunately, there is a perverseness in our natures which prompts us to resist authority,

* Lord Chesterfield had just succeeded in obtaining for Mr. Dayrolles the post of King's *Resident* at the Hague.

though otherwise inclined enough to do the thing, if left to our choice. Invitation, example, and fashion, with some premiums attending them, are, I am convinced, the only methods of bringing people in Ireland to do what they ought to do; and that is the plan of your Society.

I am glad to find that your paper manufacture goes on so well; if it does but once take root with you, I am sure it will flourish, for it is the beginning only of things that is difficult with you. You want stock to set out with, and patience for the returns; but when once the profit begins to be felt, you will go on as well as any people in the world.

I am surprised that the high duty upon glass here and the suspension of the manufacture of it in some degree, has not encouraged you to apply yourselves to that part of trade, in which I am sure the profits would be very considerable; and your making your own bottles might be some little degree of equivalent for what emptying of bottles costs you. I wish every man in Ireland were obliged to make as many bottles as he empties, and your manufacture would be a flourishing one indeed.

I am very glad to hear that your Linen Board is to give out no more flax-seed, but only premiums for the raising of it; for that same flax-seed was the seed of corruption, which throve wonderfully in the soil of particular people, and produced jobs one hundred fold.

The snuff you sent me was extremely good, and I am much obliged to you for the trouble you took about it, though I know that you think it no trouble to serve your friends, and hope that you reckon me in

that number. I assure you I am, and I should not be the friend that I really am to Ireland, if I were not so to you, who deserve so well of your country. I know few people who, like you, employ both their time and their fortunes in doing public good, without the thoughts or expectations of private advantage: when I say advantage, I mean it in the common acceptance of the word, which, thanks to the virtue of the times, implies only money; for otherwise your advantage is very considerable, from the consciousness of the good you do—the greatest advantage which an honest mind is capable of enjoying. May you long enjoy it, with health, the next happiness to it!

I am, &c.

P.S.—Pray make my compliments to the good Bishop of Cloyne, when you write to him.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, June 2, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received your two letters of the 6th and 9th, N. S., and am heartily glad to hear of your safe arrival at the Hague. All you have said to Bentinck and to *L'ami** was perfectly right; go on upon that

* The following is an extract from the original MS. of Mr. Dayrolles's letter to Lord Chesterfield of June 9, N. S. 1747: "I have delivered your Lordship's letter to Mr. Duncan, and he approves entirely what you are pleased to mention to him. . . . He is of opinion we should never meet but privately, for I find he does not care to be suspected of having any secret transaction with your Lordship; for Bentinck, who does not love him, would be glad of an

tone with them both. *L'ami* is apt to refine, and consequently may be mistaken, both with regard to the suspicion which he supposes Lord Sandwich entertains of you, and that which he thinks Bentinck entertains of me upon account of my letter to Prince Waldeck. However, *il n'en sera ni plus ni moins*. Lord Sandwich, who arrived this morning,* spoke very well of you to me, and did not discover the least discontent at your mission. I am in a great hurry to-night, and can add nothing more now, than that I am, most truly and affectionately,

Yours.

Pray tell *L'ami* that I have received his letters regularly up to the 9th. My compliments to your aunt.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 9, O.S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received your two last separate letters of the 13th and 16th, N.S., and thank you for the informations they give me. I have long thought that the Duke of Newcastle and Bentinck had a secret correspondence, in which I believe they have now an opportunity to misrepresent him to the Prince (of Orange). He desires for the time to come, to be always called *L'ami*, least the letters should be opened, for though this has not been practised in Holland for many years, they have now lately begun to do it." In a note to Lord Chesterfield's Works, vol. iv. p. 79, Mr. Dayrolles adds, that "Mr. Duncan was the favourite of the Prince before his elevation to the Stadtholdership and had been employed in London to settle the articles of his marriage with the Princess Royal."

* Lord Sandwich had returned home, on leave of absence, from his post at the Hague.

gaged Sandwich. This latter, I have now found out, is much displeased at your being sent to the Hague; but you need not mind it: he shall not be able to hurt you, and on your part don't give him the least cause to complain, nor let him see that you know he is displeased with your being at the Hague.

You did right in putting yourself in the Prince of Orange's way, and at the same time in not obtruding yourself upon him for a private audience. Whenever you have one, give him all possible assurances of my attachment; but keep to generals, unless before that time I should send you some particular instructions. I find by what Ligonier said to you, that the French have that superiority which I apprehended they would have; and I own that I dislike the prospect in Flanders, for I cannot think that Maréchal de Saxe has brought the French King to the army, to be either a spectator of inaction, or to attempt what he has not a moral certainty of succeeding in. The King, I can assure you, approves of your office letters; so continue to write in that manner, and put in every circumstance relative to the affair of the Republic, though seemingly trifling. As for what you hear from other quarters of Europe, you will insert it or not, in proportion as you give credit to it, or as you think it deserves notice. The application concerning the ship *Eendragt* you should have put in your office letter, because that now the memorial will appear in the office without any letter relative to it; therefore, put all those sort of things for the future in your office letters. Without complimenting your Honour, you do extremely well, and an experienced Minister could not have done better.

Vos pareils à deux fois ne se font pas connoître,
Et pour leurs coups d'essai, veulent des coups de maître.

Tell *L'ami* that I received his letter, and thank him. You will do right to keep your connection with him as private as possible, for Bentinck I know hates him, and so does the Princess.* He tells me he will only converse with you à la *Nicodeme*,† which is certainly best. Adieu! for to-night: I need not tell you that I love you sincerely, and am convinced of your attachment to
Yours.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 16, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I ACKNOWLEDGE at once your two separate letters of the 20th and 23d, N. S.

You answered the Princess Royal very well, when she recommended Monsieur de la Millerie to you; and, when you have an opportunity, acquaint her (with my most humble respects) that I will not fail to put Lord Harrington frequently in mind of her Royal Highness's orders, but, however, without answering for the success.

As the Prince has lately spoke to you as freely as usual, it is very probable that his former coolness was through inadvertency or *distracti*on only. At least, seem to think so.

Far from disliking the dissolution of the Parliament, I approved of, and promoted it, as much as anybody,

* The Princess Royal of England, consort of the Prince of Orange.

† That is by night, like Nicodemus.

and do think it a very right measure, as will appear, I dare say, by the majority which we shall have in the new one. Our enemies have not time to work, nor money to work with, as they would have had if this Parliament had died a year hence of a natural death.

The news of Lord Sandwich succeeding me was put into the public papers here, whether by design or ignorance I don't know. Many people, I believe, think that *my Brother** will wear out my patience, as indeed he has most people's; but as I have a good deal I may hold out longer than people think. Besides that, *things may mend*.

If the Dutch will declare war, it will be now that the French have embargoed their ships. I conceive why the Prince does not care to press them to it; but I don't conceive why those who wish well, and who have spirit, don't do it of themselves.

If Van-haren has the lady,† adieu, Bentinck, before it is long, for I am sure her interest will prevail at last. Let me know, if you can, what was said or thought at that Court upon the supposition of my being out.

Don't distrust yourself, for upon my word you do perfectly well. Good night!

P. S.—I send you the enclosed from poor Chataigné, my page. If you can do him any service, by speaking in his behalf to any of the Prince's people, pray do.

* His colleague as Secretary of State, the Duke of Newcastle.

† "Mr. Bentinck is the Prince's chief favourite, as Van-haren, "on the other hand, is the most in favour with the Princess." Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, June 13, N. S. 1747, MS. letters.

TO THE BISHOP OF WATERFORD.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 231.)

London, June 18, O. S. 1747.

MY DEAR LORD,

I THANK you for your letter and for your kind hint, and am heartily glad to hear that you have made up your affair with your predecessor's widow [for whatever you may have given her more than strictly she ought to have had, will, I am sure, be still much less than a law-suit would have cost you. For my own part, I am determined to give up anything rather than stand a law-suit for it. I know what it is that I give up, but I can never know what a law-suit would cost me].

What becomes of your intended establishment at Waterford for the reception of foreigners? Does it go on? It would be of great advantage to the town, and a good example to others. How does Mr. Smith's linen manufacture flourish with you? If it prospers, I should think it would both invite and employ foreigners. I wish my country people, for I look upon myself as an Irishman still, would but attend half as much to those useful objects, as they do to the glory of the militia and the purity of their claret. Drinking is a most beastly vice in every country, but it is really a ruinous one to Ireland: nine gentlemen in ten in Ireland are impoverished by the great quantity of claret, which, from mistaken notions of hospitality and dignity, they think it necessary should be drunk in their houses; this ex-

* Only a few months after Dr. Chenevix had been named Bishop of Killaloe, he was translated to the richer Bishoprick of Waterford.

pense leaves them no room to improve their estates, by proper indulgence upon proper conditions to their tenants, who must pay them to the full, and upon the very day, that they may pay their wine-merchants.

There was a law, in one of the ancient Governments, I have forgot which, that empowered a man to kill his wife if she smelt of wine. I most sincerely wish that there were a law in Ireland, and better executed than most laws are, to empower the wives to kill their husbands in the like case; it would promote sobriety extremely, if the effects of conjugal affection were fully considered.

Do you grow fat? Are Mrs. Chenevix and your children all well? Are you as cheerful and as happy as your good conscience ought to make you? I hope them all; for upon my word, nobody loves and values you more than

Your faithful friend and servant.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 23, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

As the letters of the 30th, N. S. are not yet come in, I have little to say to you by this post; and should hardly have written, but that I love to write to you, because I know that you love to hear from me.

I am glad that the Prince of Orange has begun to talk confidentially to you. Cultivate that growing confidence. When he speaks to you again about the Russian affair, take care to get out of him, *sans faire semblant de rien*, in what proportion and upon what

foot he proposes that we should take a share in it. The case is this: By the *resultat*, which I signed two years ago,* we are engaged to pay three-fourths of the *frais casuels de la guerre*; now subsidies come under this head, and consequently we now pay three-fourths of the Bavarian and Hessian subsidies; but the Dutch pay the whole pay of those troops themselves. It will therefore make a very great difference to us in the expense, if the 30,000 Russians be taken into our joint service upon a stipulated pay as troops, or if the whole is to be paid for by one great subsidy; because that, in the first case, we might get off for half, or it may be less, whereas in the latter we must probably pay our three-fourths. Therefore, if the Prince of Orange or Bentinck should enter with you into the particular scheme of engaging these Russians, you may, without seeming to know what I have now told you, endeavour and propose to have them taken upon the foot of pay for the respective corps, alleging, that if it were to be done by way of one gross subsidy for 30,000 men, that number would probably prove deficient, and the deduction from the subsidy difficult; whereas there could be less deceit if they were to be paid according to the musters, like the Bavarians and the Hessians. Though, by the way, I must observe to you, that the Elector of Bavaria and the Landgrave of Hesse have small subsidies, of which we pay three-fourths over and above the pay of their troops, which the Dutch pay by themselves. Prussia will probably require something of this kind too; but, however, the less the subsidy the easier we shall get off.

* At the Hague, in the spring of 1745. See note to p. 167, of this volume.

I expect bad news every day from Italy, and wish more than I hope for good news from Flanders. Something, I think, must soon happen there.

I have had a very satisfactory letter from Mr. Harte, and am convinced there has been no gaming at all in the case. However, when you hear from Monsieur de Bochat* or Madame, in answer to the letter you write, pray send me their letters. A propos of Monsieur de Bochat, pray tell me in what way I can reward him, for the lectures that he has read to the boy. Should I send him money, how much? If no money, what must I present him with, and to about what value? Tell me without reserve. Make my sincerest compliments to your aunt. Good night.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, July 3, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED by the last mail your letter of the 7th, N. S. and though I have very little time to-night, yet I would not omit acquainting you that the hints, which I gave you in one of my former letters, concerning the 30,000 Russians are now useless. The Prince of Orange writ to me two posts ago to propose the taking of the Russian troops jointly in the service of the Maritime Powers, that is that the Dutch were to take 10,000 into their pay, and we the 20,000 into ours. Nay, more, they would even, I believe, have contributed their fourth part to our 20,000 over and

* A Professor of History and Civil Law in the University of Lausanne, whose lectures were attended by Lord Chesterfield's son.

above their own 10,000; but upon mature and *wise* deliberation, it was thought proper to put off this affair till September to wait for events *en attendant*, which God knows, in my mind, we have done but too long already. I represented the distance of the Court of Petersburg, and the necessity of immediately beginning whatever negotiation you would have concluded at that Court even by next spring, but in vain, for the old spirit of delay and indecision prevailed. I fear this delay will be very disagreeable to the Prince of Orange, who I dare say thought that the proposal would have been very welcome here.

I thank you for the account which you sent me from Lausanne, though I can't say that it gives me great comfort. I shall hint nothing of it to the boy, while he stays at Lausanne, that he may neither accuse nor suspect anybody there of being my informer; but, as soon as he is at Leipsig, he shall receive *des mercuriales* upon all those points.

I own I am in great pain for the Dutch frontier, Bergen-op-zoom, Breda, or Bois-le-Duc, but chiefly the two first, being, I am convinced, the object of the French, which, if they succeed in, the consequence is but too plain. Pray tell me what you take to be the whole force of Prince Saxe Hildbourghausen's corps.

Burn this letter as soon as you have read it, and don't mention the former part of it to anybody living.

Yours faithfully.

(Now first printed.) Separate and Secret Postscript.

When you deliver my office letter to the Prince of Orange, I dare say he will talk to you about the Russian affair, which it relates to. I dare say, too, that

he will be disappointed in finding his proposal so coldly received here, and put off for so long. He will probably express something of this kind to you, which when he does, you will just hint, that you believe that my opinion was for taking the Russians immediately ; because you know, that while we are in war, I am for making it vigorously, and with superior force, and not consuming ourselves, by inferior and ineffectual armies.

In the course of this conversation, take an opportunity of showing him my enclosed letter, which I have calculated for that purpose, and in which I have inserted the Lausanne affair, to prevent the least suspicion. But when you do show it, do it with seeming difficulty, and as a mark of your unbounded confidence in the Prince ; and enjoin him the strictest secrecy, especially that I may never know that you showed it to him.*

* The further progress of this transaction is related as follows by Mr. Dayrolles, in a secret letter to Lord Chesterfield, dated July 18, N.S. 1747 : " Everything has happened in the manner your Lordship " imagined when I delivered your office-letter to the Prince of Orange. " He not only appeared disappointed, but likewise extremely concerned, and told me that nothing could disconcert his measures " more than this ; for, as he expected that in England you would " have readily come into so reasonable a scheme, he had framed his " plans accordingly. . . . I then told him I was very certain this " did not come from your Lordship, for that no man in England was so " sensible of the necessity of carrying on the war in the most vigorous " manner. He answered, he did not imagine that your Lordship could " dislike his scheme ; upon which I told him, I could easily fix him in " that opinion with some proofs I had in my hands, and would even " venture to do it, as my confidence in him was unbounded, and I was " well persuaded he never would betray me, especially to your Lordship. Upon this, he gave me the strongest assurances of secrecy, " and I gave him your letter to read. He appeared to be very well " pleased with it, and as he went on reading repeated several times,

Both the King and I thought the measure a right one, and that we should get all the force we could; but we can neither of us do what we have a mind to do, and the resolutions of those who neither know how to make war nor peace are to prevail.

Good night, once more!

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, July 17, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I SHALL take it ill of you, and look upon it as contempt, if you are not in a d—— passion at me, for not having writ to you these two posts; but I have really been so entirely taken up with the political puzzle which we have been in, that I have not had a minute's time to pay my separate duty to you.

I can tell you in confidence, that though I received a second letter from the Prince of Orange, upon the subject of the Russian troops, and pressing that measure again, old indecision still prevails, and I am only to order Lord Hyndford to *entamer* that affair, and to prepare it eventually, that less time may be necessary when decision shall come. Things are now, in my opinion, in a most miserable situation, and the taking

"Voyez vous, c'est tout comme je vous disois tout à l'heure. But now I think, upon recollection, that when he came to the article, that 'upon mature and WISE deliberation it was thought proper to put 'off this affair till September,'—he did not make the proper application of the word WISE, and seemed to think of the King. As I am not clear upon this point, your Lordship will know best whether it would not be proper for you to procure me soon an opportunity of seeing him again to set him quite right by giving him some hints."

of Bergen-op-zoom *y mettroit le comble*. I wish I could see a plan for either a vigorous war or a tolerable peace, or rather, a plan eventually for each. I see many things which I will not mention, that make me despair of seeing the war carried on another year with that vigour and superior or at least equal force, which is absolutely necessary for success; and as I think no state so bad as that which we have been in these three years, of neither making war nor peace, I own I am now rather inclined for the latter, if it can be obtained upon reasonable terms, which I much doubt of, especially if Bergen-op-zoom should fall. All this *entre nous* absolutely; for I meddle very little; I execute orders quietly, and give no advice. Let those who puzzled us in puzzle us out if they can. By this conduct I am better and better every day in the Closet.

Lord Sandwich embarks for Holland on Sunday night, or Monday morning at farthest. After his arrival, I cannot find in my heart to refuse you your visit to Ubbergue,* where I wish I could attend you, and where I desire you would present my respects *a toute quante*. But I would have you contrive to set out on some Wednesday morning, and return to the Hague on the Monday night, or the Tuesday morning following, by which means you will miss but one post. Burn this letter as you did the last; and so we heartily wish you farewell for to-night. Yours.

P.S.—I have this minute received yours of the 25th, by the last paragraph of which I find you are a little angry, but not angry enough.

* The country-seat of Count Welderen in the province of Guelders.

(Now first printed.) Separate and Secret Postscript.

Contrive to do by this letter just as you did by the last; your delivering of my letter to the Prince will probably give you an occasion to do it in the same manner. Upon my soul we shall be undone if we have not a peace, for I am sure we should not carry on the war better next year than we have done this. Give the Austrians what we please, they will always be grossly deficient; and let the Dutch take what vigorous resolutions they please, I fear they have not the means of enforcing them. Our means fall short, and our capacity still shorter. *Nous ne sommes pas montés sur le ton de conquête.* However, don't declare your opinion either way where you are; but speak cautiously and doubtfully. Sandwich I know has instructions from the Duke of Newcastle to watch you carefully; he goes back much puzzled between his Grace and me; he would be well with both, and sees that is impossible. The Duke of Newcastle has, I believe, shown him my place *en perspective*, which possibly it may not be in his Grace's power to dispose of.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, July 21, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED yours yesterday, by which I find my own notion confirmed—which was, that the bulk of the Republic would be frightened into pacific measures, whatever the inclinations of the new Government may be. The lines are, I am convinced, by this time

forced, the necessary consequence of which is the taking of Bergen-op-zoom. I own I dread the opening of my next letters from Holland. Pray tell our *friend* that I have received all his letters very safe to his last of the 28th inst. inclusively, and that I thank him extremely for them. As he is so watched, I would by no means have him write to me for some time; but if he has anything of consequence to inform me of, he may tell it you by word of mouth. Advise him from me to be patient, in which case, I dare say, his turn will come again; and if he could get any channel to the *lady*, I think that would be his surest, and would certainly do at last. The seldomer you see him, unless in the utmost secrecy, the better for you both. In great haste, yours faithfully.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 87.)

à Londres, ce 31 Juillet, V. S. 1747.

JE crois avoir à la fin trouvé un beau cheval entier bai de cinq ans, qui a l'encolure magnifique, les épaules libres, et les hanches très cadencées. Je l'ai à assez bon marché, n'ayant coûté que cinquante cinq guinées: pour l'accompagner en chemin, je prends la liberté d'envoyer à Monsieur de Nevers un petit cheval gris de mon propre haras, qui n'a encore que quatre ans, et qui n'a jamais été élevé à la course. Comme il ne me coûte rien, Monsieur de Nevers voudra bien qu'il ne lui coûte rien non plus. Il est échappé du plus beau cheval Arabe que nous ayons eu en ce pays, et

Madame sa mère étoit une petite beauté Angloise, qui ne fut pas insensible aux fleurettes énergiques du dit Arabe. Pour un si jeune cheval il est fort doux, et je conseillerois á Monsieur de Nevers de le monter lui-même, plutôt que le cheval entier, qui pourroit lui jouer un mauvais tour. On ne peut guère se fier à ces Messieurs là, qui deviennent méchans du soir au lendemain.

Mademoiselle — me dit des merveilles de *Bagatelle*.* Nous voudrions tous les deux y être, ce ne seroit pas une bagatelle pour nous; vos bagatelles valent bien le solide des autres. Est-il loin de Paris? car quoique que vous tirerez toujours le meilleur parti de tout, je tiens qu'il faut que les honnêtes gens soient à portée de la capitale. Une société aimable est, á la longue, la plus grande douceur de la vie, et elle ne se trouve que dans les capitales. C'est sur ce principe que je me ruine actuellement à bâtir une assez belle maison ici,† qui sera finie à la Françoisé, avec force sculptures et dorures.

Il ne reste pas assez de papier pour finir par un compliment d'une longueur convenable, de sorte que je n'en ferai point du tout. Adieu donc, Madame.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, July 31, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received yours of the 4th of August, N. S., but I have so little to say to you by this post, that it

* The villa of Madame de Monconseil, near Paris.

† Chesterfield House.

is only the satisfaction, which I have in writing to you, makes me write to-night.

By this time, I suppose, both Sandwich and Booteslaer are at the Hague; they went from hence in very different sentiments, the former very warlike, the latter very pacific. What our real sentiments are here it is impossible for me to tell you; they vary so often. We have no plan for either war or peace; the least favourable event inclines us to the former, the least check to the latter, so that we are always either at the top or at the bottom of the house, and the middle floor is always to be let! Pray let me know in what way Booteslaer talks of us and particularly of me. I think I was well with him.

I send Lord Sandwich, by this post, his Credentials of Ambassador, which he has long solicited, but which he is neither to present nor mention till he receive further orders; therefore don't you seem to know any thing at all of it. Far from having drawn up his own instructions,* I can hardly say that he has any; such is our indecision still.

I have writ to Mr. Harte to inquire at Lausanne of some of Monsieur de Bochat's friends, in what way to make him a compliment for the trouble he has been at, and to act accordingly, and likewise to make some present to Monsieur Brenles,† when they leave Lausanne, which will now be very soon, for I have ordered them to be at Leipsig by Michaelmas, N. S. As they will therefore leave Lausanne in three weeks, I

* "We are told here that Lord Sandwich has had the sole framing "of his instructions." Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, August 4, N. S. 1747.

† At whose house Mr. Philip Stanhope had been a boarder, during his stay at Lausanne.

shall be obliged to you, if you will write to Monsieur Brenles in about a fortnight, to desire that he will send you in the utmost confidence, but with the greatest freedom, the entire analysis of the boy's heart, mind, and manners; which in all this time he must know thoroughly, having seen him every day, and in his unguarded hours. It will be of infinite use for me to know all these particulars. I have not yet mentioned, either to the boy or Mr. Harte, any thing of what Madame de Bochat writ to you, that they might not suspect from whence it came, or endeavour to fish it out. But as soon as they are got to Leipsig, they shall hear of it with a vengeance, but so, as that it shall be impossible for them to guess from whence I had it.

I am astonished at the not sending Prince Waldeck's corps into the lines of Bergen-op-zoom, where they would, with those troops that were in the lines before, have formed a strength, which might probably have saved the town; whereas, divided as they are, I fear that neither corps is strong enough separately for any purpose. .

I hope Sukey Young is well and kind. Fanny Murray was last night in the Park in perfect health but in very close mourning—for some near relation, I presume, of the illustrious family of the Murrays!

Adieu : Yours.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, August 11, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I WAS in doubt, whether I should write to you to-night or not, it being doubtful, whether by this time you have a head upon your shoulders or not.* But, upon mature deliberation, I determined to write eventually, knowing that, at worst, my letter would by no means be the first that had been sent to a minister without a head. I confess the hopes which I have, that the French will raise the siege of Bergen-op-zoom, arise from the apprehensions which they may entertain of you and the Bishop of Raphoe; for otherwise, I see no one thing, that should induce them to it.

I suspect that the Bishop of Raphoe has an eye to the Bishoprick of Munster, upon the death of the Elector of Cologne, and means to show that he will do as well as Bernard Van Galen.†

Bentinck's arrival was as you guessed, a meditated secret, and Lord Sandwich, who was surely in it, never mentioned it till he was embarked; but we knew it from the yacht four days before. I informed you wrong in my last when I told you that I should by that post send Lord Sandwich his Credentials of Ambassador, for when I carried them afterwards to the King, he would not "*pour un diable*" sign them, but has indeed allowed him the full appointment. Don't

* Mr. Dayrolles, in company with Dr. Twisden, Bishop of Raphoe, had just made an excursion to the siege of Bergen-op-zoom.

† The warlike Bishop of Munster, who took so active a part in the Dutch affairs of the year 1672.

mention a word of this. If Lord Sandwich does not think proper to speak to you about business don't seem to observe it, but go on *tout de suite*.

I cannot imagine what Booteslaer means by mixing Pelham with his brother, the Duke, in his account of the heat and ignorance of people here; he knows very well that Harry Pelham is in quite different sentiments and entirely of my opinion.

I am persuaded, that the new tax,* from which such sums are expected, will either not be laid, from the opposition it will meet with; or, if laid, will hardly be collected without the assistance of dragoons. In my opinion, when Bergen-op-zoom shall be taken, the consternation will be universal in the Republic, and the tone of the most sanguine will be altered. Williamstadt or Zealand will fall next; and then what ground our troops will have to stand upon, and where they will find quarters, I am at a loss to guess. I am

* "This tax, under the name of *Liberal Gift* or *Don Gratuit*, was "raised in a very extraordinary manner. Large cases or trunks were "placed in all the town-houses in the province of Holland, in which "all persons, whose whole capital did not amount to less than 2,000 "florins, were obliged to deposit upon oath, either in cash, obligations "of the State, or plate, to the value of at least *two per cent.* of what- "ever they possessed, either in cash, land, jewels, plate, pictures, obli- "gations, employments, &c., nothing but household goods and wearing "apparel to be excepted. They were also obliged to swear, that in "case they should afterwards find out, that they had not paid in their "quotas, according to a true and just valuation of all their effects, "they would faithfully make it up again, to the best of their knowl- "edge. The sum produced by this heavy imposition was kept a pro- "found secret, and never came to the knowledge of the world with any "certainty. However, there is good reason to think, that the amount "of the same did not fall short of twenty-two millions of florins, viz. "two millions sterling, in the single province of Holland. The pub- "lic debt of that province alone, at that time, was computed at forty "millions sterling."—Note by Mr. Dayrolles.

even in pain for their existence, after the town shall be taken.

I have signed your bill of extraordinaries. Pray what becomes of Kreunningen? Is he not frightened out of his wits? Adieu. Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, August 21, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM very glad to find the cannon-balls, bombs, shells, and mines, which you went to visit at Bergen-op-zoom, received you so civilly, as to give you all the entertainment they could afford, without playing you those tricks which they are apt to do to those with whom they are more familiar. In short, you are well off, and I am glad of it.

I think, as you do, that the town must fall, and soon, it being impossible for the whole army to march to its relief; at least the Duke* is convinced of it, though I find that the Prince of Orange is of a contrary opinion. That is not, I doubt, the only point, upon which they differ.

Bentinck's commission here was (between you and I) to prevent or defeat any negotiations of peace, and to engage us in immediate preparations of war for another campaign; in which he has as yet neither

* Of Cumberland, then commanding in Flanders. Mr. Pelham writes of him, and of the Prince of Orange at this period, "Our two young heroes agree but little. Our own is open, frank, resolute, and perhaps hasty; the other assuming, pedantic, ratiocinating, and tenacious." To H. Walpole the elder, August 14, 1747.

quite failed nor quite succeeded, as our natural indecision inclines us one day to the one and another day to the other, as the least good or bad events encourage or frighten us. I think he proposes returning next week.

I see the *two per cent.* tax is not yet laid, and that the States of Holland are separated to deliberate upon it. I own, I much doubt, whether it will be laid, and still more whether it will be levied if laid.

Divertissez-vous bien, craignez Dieu, et buvez frais autant que faire se pourra. Adieu.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, August 25, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I DON'T at all wonder at Lord Sandwich's proceeding with you, as it is conformable to his conduct with regard to me. His Lordship has for some time made his option between the Duke of Newcastle and myself, and I suppose thinks he has chose the best, in which however he may some time or other find himself mistaken. Bentinck follows his example, and never comes near me nor speaks to me about business, though in my province, but confers wholly with his Grace. But I take no notice of it, and I advise you to do so too. Their great point is to prevent any peace at all, the Prince of Orange thinking as vainly that the Republic has resources, as the Duke of Newcastle thinks that he has abilities, to carry on the war. I let them go on quietly being convinced that events

will soon show who is in the right and who in the wrong. Pray do not upon any account discover the least dissatisfaction either with regard to yourself or to me, but remember that *Volto sciolto e pensieri stretti* are often very necessary in business. The taking of the Russians is, in my mind, eventually a right step, provided we make the right use of it; that is, to treat seriously of peace, with force in our hands for war. For I am convinced, that every thing that does not tend to a peace, is absurd, and will in the end prove fatal.

I have no opinion of your new tax; and though it may be laid, I believe it will be so lamely collected, that it will not produce any thing like what is proposed. Pray tell me what impartial people think of it.

Don't be distrustful of yourself; for every body here allows, that it is impossible to do better than you have done. So, good night. Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 91.)

à Londres, ce 8 Septembre, V. S. 1747.

JE vous suis plus qu'infiniment obligé de l'Anti-Lucrèce que vous avez eu la bonté de m'envoyer, et que Monsieur l'Abbé de la Ville m'a fait tenir le plus poliment du monde. Je l'ai lu avec avidité et plaisir. C'est un ouvrage digne de son auteur; la poésie en est belle, et le Latin sent le siècle d'Auguste; enfin si l'on se dégage des préjugés dans lesquels on est élevé

en faveur de l'antiquité, il faut convenir que l'Anti-Lucrèce ne le cède en rien à Lucrèce même, et qu'en fait de philosophie, il l'emporte de bien loin. Nous autres Anglois, à la vérité, nous sommes fâchés que le Cardinal * ait donné la préférence au système de Descartes, et qu'il n'ait pas plutôt adopté celui de notre Newton, hors duquel nous ne croyons pas qu'il y ait desalut. Pour moi, qui ne suis nullement philosophe, et par conséquent nullement prévenu en faveur de quelque système que ce soit, j'avoue que je trouve que l'attraction universelle de notre Newton a quelque chose d'infiniment plus joli et de plus galant, que ces vilains tourbillons, qui ne me donnent que des idées de fracas et de tumulte, au lieu que l'attraction en fournit de plus douces. Monsieur de Nevers et moi nous sentons tout le vrai du Newtonianisme.

Au reste, Madame, je vous supplie de vouloir bien dire de ma part tout ce que vous pouvez dire de plus poli (et que ne pouvez-vous pas dire de la sorte?) à Monsieur l'Abbé le Blond. J'ai voulu d'abord lui écrire moi-même, pour le remercier; mais j'ai fait réflexion, que si je vous en chargeois, il pourroit peut-être croire que je vous avois dicté ce que vous lui diriez, et j'ai mieux aimé profiter d'une erreur si avantageuse pour moi. A propos d'Abbés, comment se porte notre Abbé Sallier? jouit-il toujours de sa santé, de sa bibliothèque, de son Syriaque, et de tout son grimoire savant? Ayez la bonté de lui faire bien mes complimens.

Vous ne voulez pas m'accorder le sentiment; et en même tems, vous et votre Monsieur de Nevers, vous me faites sentir que je ne l'ai que trop, au moins si la

* De Polignac.

jalousie est une preuve du sentiment, comme sûrement elle l'est, et je crois que vous êtes convenus ensemble de m'envoyer sa dernière lettre, pour me faire enrager. C'est assurément une insulte des plus marquées de sa part : les reproches qu'il vous fait de mon triomphe ne font que m'annoncer le sien ; et j'y vois tout le langage d'un rival d'autant plus modeste et discret qu'il se sent victorieux et sûr de son fait. Que faire ? le cœur me dit de me fâcher contre tous les deux, mais l'esprit me dit que vous avez tous deux raison. Que mon rival au moins ne s'attende pas que le petit cheval gris soit beau, car il se trouveroit bien trompé ; il n'est tout au plus que passablement joli, mais il a les allures bonnes, et il sera commode ; il est mince par derrière, mais voilà comme tous nos chevaux de race sont faits.

Les reproches, que vous fait Madame votre mère sur mon sujet, sont bien flatteurs pour moi ; ayez la bonté, Madame, de l'assurer de ma reconnoissance et de mon respect.

Bon Dieu ! quelle lettre ! J'en ai honte, je me cache.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, September 11, 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I DON'T acknowledge separately the several letters which I have received from you since my last, as you are sensible that I must have received them, and have not always time to answer them. *Au reste je n'en pense pas moins.* Charles Bentinck arrived here the day before yesterday ; but what his business is, is yet

a secret to me, neither his brother nor he thinking it necessary to communicate any thing to me, though in my department. The affairs are all transacted secretly with the Duke of Newcastle, Sandwich, and Chabannes. Bentinck talks more extravagantly than ever poor Lord Stair did.* Bergen-op-zoom is no loss; the Dutch have more resources than they want; and though they should lose a province or two this year, they will recover that and a great deal more the next! He goes away next Sunday, and is to be sent Minister from the Republic to the Conferences at Aix la Chapelle, there to try not to promote but to put an end to the negotiations for peace. All this *entre nous seuls*. *Adieu, mon cher enfant*.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, September 22, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM convinced that you judge very right,† and that the present connection between the two persons

* "At Lord Chesterfield's, before dinner, Count Bentinck came in to take leave, setting out to-morrow for Holland. . . . Mr. Thomas Villiers came in as Count Bentinck went away, and Lord Chesterfield told him that Bentinck exactly resembled Lord Stair, who would allow no facts or reasoning against his own hopes and schemes."—Diary of Lord Marchmont, September 13, 1747.

† "What your Lordship is pleased to tell me in confidence about the extraordinary behaviour of the two brothers (Bentinck) shows very plainly, that I was not misinformed when I told your Lordship that you did not stand very well in Madam's book" (the Princess of Orange). "I know, my Lord, she looks upon you as one whose schemes will never square with hers, and if she seems at present so much attached to the Duke of Newcastle, I am sure it is neither out of friendship nor any particular esteem for him, but only on account of

you mention is only temporary, and for the present purpose. *He* being the only person here weak enough and ignorant enough to support those wild schemes which I fear will end in the ruin of the Republic, and, in consequence, of England. I am concerned for the public which I take to be in a very dangerous situation; as to myself in particular, I am extremely easy. I will continue in public life, while I can do it with honour; and, when I cannot, I shall enjoy private life with pleasure, and I hope some reputation. The Republic talks and looks big; but neither does, nor I fear can act up to it. And how they will repel the dangers of this year, by the force which they are to raise the next, I am at a loss to discover.

I have spoke to Mr. Pelham about your payment, and will take care that you shall be paid as soon as, or sooner than, any other foreign Minister; and more you must not expect, for a very strong reason, which is, that there is not money.

The Parliament will meet the second week in November; till when the town will continue as empty as it is now, and I never knew it emptier. My only amusement is my new house, which has now taken some form, both within and without. There is but one disagreeable circumstance that attends it, which is the expense. Adieu. *Portez vous bien.*

“her notions of his mighty interest, and that his politics agree better “with her views.”—Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, September 26, N.S. 1747. Original MS.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, October 2, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

INCLOSED is a letter for M. de Bochet, which I desire that you will direct properly, and forward to him; for the proper titles are of great importance all over Germany. My letter is an answer to a very civil one, which you sent from him, and at the same time conveys my thanks for his book,* which, as far as I have read, is, I think, an excellent one. He gives me in the main a good character of the boy, and he has very kindly wrote to Professor Mascow, to inform him previously of what the boy does or does not know, of his dispositions, character, &c. all which it is right that the Professor should know beforehand, in order to take his measures the better.

What the Bentincks say with relation to the frequent audiences which the eldest had of the King, is very true, for he had several, in which, I believe, assertions were more numerous than proofs. First, the French could not take Bergen-op-zoom, such prudent, such infallible measures had been taken, to prevent it! When unfortunately it was taken, it was no matter, but rather for the better, as it would animate the Republic so much the more! The Republic, though she called for it, wanted no assistance, but had sufficient resources of men and money! And poor Hop was severely reprimanded by them, while they were here, and complained of to the Stadtholder, for

* *Critical researches into the ancient state of the Helvetic body, with an account of the monuments of antiquity found in Switzerland.*

having by express orders from the States-General, delivered a Memorial to me, in which they apply to the King for *prompt et efficace secours*, upon the taking of Bergen-op-zoom. This the Bentincks were wise enough to say, was an admission that the Republic wanted assistance, which they denied to be true; and affirmed that the *prompt et efficace secours* related only to next year. I have a notion that they want to pick a quarrel with Hop, in order to send Charles Bentinck here in his stead. Hop thinks so too, and is very uneasy. If they mean, by my having nothing to say at Court, that my opinion does not prevail there, they are very much in the right; and I should be very sorry that the measures which do prevail, should be supposed to be mine. A little time, I fear, will show the fatal consequences of them. The stake now played for, is no less than the Republic itself; and I see no better prospect of either better cards, or better play next year, than to our cost, we have seen this. However, do you be discreet, and do not let the warmth of your friendship for me, make you say anything that may give *prise* upon you, to those who I promise you, would be glad to have it. For I am too well convinced of the truth and cordiality of your affection for me, to want any new proofs of it.

Though things go now smoothly, and to the wish of the Stadtholder in Holland, I suspect that they will not long continue to do so. The heads, that govern now, are too hot for the old ones that are to obey; and I foresee that the string will be pulled till it breaks.

Make my compliments to your aunt. Yours most faithfully.

To SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, October 16, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

. You allow me the privilege of a busy man, which is, not to write, when he has not time to do it; and that of a lazy man, which is, not to write, when he has not a mind to it; but for the two last posts I claim the privilege of a sick man, for I have had confounded rheumatic pains in my shoulder, for which I have been let blood, physicked, and confined, but I am now pretty well again.

Bentinck, I hear, is ill, and Van-haren better than ever he was in his life, by a very good place which he has lately got, and which gives uneasiness to the former. I foresee great discord in that country, and great discontent in the Republic, which will not, I believe, produce that strength for the next campaign that they promise us here, and that we are weak enough to expect.

I suppose that you have received your money, for it has been ordered some time ago.

What becomes of *L'ami*? Is he persecuted or only neglected?

Has Kreuningen paid his two *per cent.* and survived it? Have you seen your old friend Caroline?
Bon soir.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 95.)

à Londres, ce 20 Octobre, V. S. 1747.

SUR mon honneur, Madame, vous m'avez déjà fort gâté, et si vous continuez sur ce même ton, vous me ruinerez absolument. J'avale à long traits votre flatterie, vous l'appêtez si bien que vous en faites un nectar, mais il n'en tourne la tête que plus pour cela.

J'ai montré l'Anti-Lucrèce à quelques savans d'ici qui ont en même tems du goût; ils en sont tous charmés; entre autres notre grand Chancelier* l'a lu deux fois, et a prononcé un décret des plus avantageux. Je donne cinq cent ans à tout le conclave à produire quelque chose qui l'égale.

Revenez donc de *Bagatelle*; il ne faut jamais être hors de la capitale quand une fois il faut faire du feu: il n'y a pas d'autre bon quartier d'hiver que Paris et Londres.

To SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, October 23, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE just now received your letter of the 31st instant, N. S. The news which you mention to be sent from hence† to your little Court, is, I believe, wished there to be true, and possibly, I wish it more myself, than anybody else does; but yet I will say that it is in nobody's power, but my own, to verify it.

* Lord Hardwicke.

† Of his retirement from office.

How soon I may choose to do it, I cannot now determine; but this I know, that you judge very right in thinking that it must be very disagreeable to tug at the oar with one who cannot row, and yet will be paddling so as to hinder you from rowing. I think, I have had a great deal of patience already, and how much longer it will hold, God knows; to do any good, I would bear a great deal, but as I find that impossible, and that we are to be ruined by incapacity, I do not much care to share in the reproach when I know I am free from the guilt.

I think our friend will never carry his point, of being sent to England, as the lady, I know, hates him cordially, and never yet forgave, when she once hated. Bentinck's blind impetuosity and invincible obstinacy suits her better.

I send a packet to you by this courier, who is going to Vienna; it is a stuff for Madame Monconseil at Paris, who tells me that Monsieur Chiquet, has allowed her to have it addressed to him, and that he will further it to her. Therefore pray send it to him, and beg of him, to send it on; you may make any use of my name to him, that you please. I have not time to say a word more. Adieu!

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, November 17, O.S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I MEND though slowly, and yet I wish that other things mended as fast. Your politics in Holland are above my comprehension, as well as ours here. In

pursuit of chimerical and unattainable views, we are running into certain ruin. Heat, prejudice and obstinacy hurry you on in Holland; incapacity leads or rather misleads here. But enough of this and *entre nous* only.

I received a letter from Kreuningén, full of groans and lamentations; he declares, however, that he will most conscientiously pay his two per cent. If he does, I do not believe that ever man sacrificed more to a quiet conscience. Pray make him my compliments and assure him that if any pamphlet had appeared here worthy even of his —, I would have sent it him. But I never knew the press so quiet and so uninteresting in my life, as it has been of late.

The two Dutch Plenipotentiaries are, I find, of the nomination of the first (Mr. Bentinck) and will consequently greatly contribute to a general pacification, as Count Maurice's activity will to the defence of Zealand! *Je suis bien las de tout ceci et serois bien aise d'une bonne occasion de me sauver d'une galère sans pilote, et battue de vents contraires. Adieu mon cher enfant.*

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 1, O. S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED but last Sunday yours of the 1st N. S. and there are now two more posts due from Holland.

Though your correspondence cannot, in this season of inaction, be so informing as at other times, it is still the correspondence of a friend; and I value much

more what the heart dictates, than what occurrences supply. So write on, when you have leisure; and depend upon your letters being equally welcome to me, however full of, or free from, news. Chetwynd* tells me that you have some doubts, whether you should regularly write your office-letters or not, as you have not great variety of materials for them at present. That is none of your fault, and must necessarily be the case while Lord Sandwich is at the Hague. But, however, I can tell you that the King reads your letters with great attention, and is very well pleased with them; therefore continue by all means, and insert every thing that comes to your knowledge. His Majesty loves to hear the little occurrences of every place.

Lord Sandwich writes me word in his letter of the 1st, N.S., that as soon as the Brunswick troops shall be taken into our joint pay, of which the Dutch proportion is 3,000 men, the whole intended augmentation of 30,000 men will want but 1,000 of being fully complete, though by his former account, about six weeks ago, he said that there wanted 15,000 to complete that augmentation. I have not in the intermediate time, heard of any new troops being engaged by the Republic. Therefore pray (without telling the reason why you want it) endeavour to get me an exact account of all the troops now in the service of the Republic; distinguishing those that were there before the election of the Stadtholder, and those which have been raised since; and likewise an account of the prisoners still in the possession of the

* William Chetwynd, Esq., Under Secretary of State in the Northern Department.

French. This account, I know, you can hardly get in any other shape, but that of battalions and squadrons; but, however, I desire you will accompany it with the best-grounded conjecture that you can form of the real number of effective men, to which that whole establishment amounts.

As the world goes, I am not displeased with Monsieur Brenles's account of the boy; and, to tell you the truth, it is better than I expected. I agree with you, that Leipsig is not the place to give him that *bon ton*, which I know he wants; but then consider, that he can acquire that *bon ton*, nowhere but in mixed companies, and in the pleasures of people of fashion at Courts, which if he were to taste of so young as he is now, there would be an end of all studies. And he still wants a foundation in several sciences, which he will lay better at Leipsig than anywhere else. He will there make himself master of the German language, the history and constitution of the empire, some Grotius, some civil law, and other things, which he must either learn now or never. It is true, that in all this time he will contract a little German dirt; but that is easier rubbed off, especially at his age, than English dirt. Turin will effectually do that; and Paris shall give, at last, the true varnish.

Harte writes me word, that the boy really works hard, and has barely time to eat, drink, and sleep. In all the vacations, he is to go to Dresden; which will do some good to his manners. Adieu.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 33.)

London, December 14, O.S. 1747.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received your letter of the 19th, N.S. Your account of the inefficiency of the Government in Holland is, I am convinced, very true, and I have the same from various hands. Much talking, and very little doing, sanguine folly without force, and obstinacy without judgment. Maréchal de Lowendahl* will, I believe, soon talk in a much more effectual manner to Zealand or Breda, though I should rather think the latter; as it is easier, and with regard to England of more importance.

If Count Nassau will break bones, I presume he will begin with Rodriguez's.† It is a most scandalous article.

I have spoke again about your payment, and have had fair promises.

I have not yet received *Memnon*; have you read *Angola*?‡ It is very prettily written. By the first opportunity of a courier, I shall send Kreuninghen a cargo of pamphlets, though we have had no good ones of late. *Adieu, mon enfant.*

* Commander of the French army.

† The writer of the Cologne Gazette.

‡ An Indian tale, by the Chevalier de la Morliere, in the style of Crébillon the Younger. It was published anonymously in 1746.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, January 1, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THE beggar's blessing attend you for this and fifty more years! after that, I leave you to take your chance.

I have received your two last letters, and likewise *Memnon*; * I always like the former, but, to tell you the truth, I do not so much admire the latter as Kreuningen does, who tells me that he *devoured* it. I have sent him a load of bad books and pamphlets, by his particular order, for none good have appeared here of late. Pray make him my compliments, and my excuses for not having yet answered his letter, which I will do soon.

By what you tell me, and by what I hear from other hands, there is much talking and little doing at the Hague, whereas the French (though they love talking as well as other people) seem to be doing, as I fear we shall soon find. I am called away. Good night, dear Dayrolles!

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, January 12, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THREE mails, which came in together, brought me two letters from you; the case of good things, of which it is often said, that but two of them come over in three ships. The Abbé de la Ville's letter, for I

* A tale in prose by Voltaire. It begins with the following sentence: *Memnon conçut un jour le projet insensé d'être parfaitement sage!*

am sure it is his, is but superficial ; he might have made more of the subject ; but, however, it is prettily writ.

I have heard from another quarter likewise, what you tell me about Bentinck, and I have long foreseen it, knowing his impetuous and impracticable temper.* The Pensionary is ten times more a man of business, and has shown himself ductile enough : and her Royal Highness will certainly prefer the most ductile. Whether the tone of that Court be peace or war, it differs only in point of time ; for a peace there will necessarily be ; if prudence makes it soon, it will be so much the better ; but if sanguine folly delays it, necessity will, before it is long, make it, and make a d—— bad one. We have nor cannot have any force to look the French in the face with, till the middle of the campaign ; before which time they will have struck their stroke, and the Republic will beg, instead of refusing, a peace.

I have desired Kreuningen to send me any good new French books that come out, and to give them to you, who will pay him for them, and transmit them to me. And I insist upon your sending me the account, that I may pay you. Our booksellers here import no books worth two-pence.

When Lord Sandwich shall be gone to Aix-la-Chapelle, which, God knows when he will, you need not doubt being fully instructed by *somebody* or other.

Bon soir, mon Enfant.

* "Both her Highness and the Greffier are much displeased with "Bentinck's vivacities and peremptory manner of deciding upon all "occasions, and that his common phrase is *que si on ne veut point suivre "les voies qu'il indique, que pour lui il ne veut plus se mêler de l'affaire en "question.*" (Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, January 12, N. S. 1748. Original MS.)

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, January 26, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THIS letter goes to you, in that confidence, which I always shall, and know that I safely may, place in you. And you will therefore not let one word of it transpire.

What Haslang wrote to Elsacker,* I believe will, nay I am sure must prove true. Neither the state of foreign nor domestic affairs will permit me to continue much longer in my present situation. I cannot go on writing orders, of which I see and foretell the fatal tendency. I can no longer take my share, of either the public indignation or contempt on account of measures in which I have no share. I can no longer continue in a post in which it is well known that I am but a *Commis*; and in which I have not been able to do any one service to any one man though ever so meritorious, lest I should be supposed to have any power and my colleague not the whole. And lastly, I tell you very truly, I long for rest and quiet, equally necessary to my present state both of body and mind. Could I do any good, I would sacrifice some more quiet to it; but, convinced as I am that I can do none, I will indulge my ease, and preserve my character. I have gone through pleasures while my constitution and my spirits would allow me. Business succeeded

* "We have here many fresh reports of your Lordship's resignation, which are even strongly affirmed in two letters from Baron Haslang to M. Elsacker. Yet I am determined to be an unbeliever till the confirmation comes to me from yourself." (Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, January 26, N. S. 1748. Original MS.)

them ; and I have now gone through every part of it, without liking it at all the better for being acquainted with it. Like many other things, it is most admired by those who know it the least. And this one consideration would alone disgust one of it, even if one had the sole power ; which is, that in this country one must, for political reasons, frequently prefer the most unworthy to the most worthy, and prostitute to importunity and undeserving greediness the rewards of merit. Thus weary of business, you will easily imagine, that in retiring from my present business, I shall not engage in any other ; but far from embarking upon any account in cabals and opposition, whenever I do take any part in the House of Lords, it shall be in support of the Government. Do not think neither that I mean a sullen retirement from the world ; on the contrary, my retreat from business will give me both more time and better spirits for the enjoyment of social life, from which I will never withdraw myself. What day I shall resign the Seals is not yet fixed : therefore, I desire that you will not, upon any account, mention one word of this letter, or give the least intimation to any one living, that you know anything of this resolution. As I know the warmth of your friendship for me, and at the same time the warmth of your temper, I most earnestly recommend to you, nay, I insist upon, your being discreet, when this event shall become public. There are those at the Hague, who will be glad to lay hold of any little slip of yours, in order to do you an injury : disappoint them by your discretion, and say nothing more upon it than that you knew that my health required exercise, and my temper quiet ; and that you know too, that when-

ever I can, as a private man, be of any use to the King or to the public, I shall act the same out of place as I should have done in. This conduct I shall look upon as a proof of your friendship, and not of your coolness for me. As I shall always have a satisfaction in hearing from you, write to me from time to time as usual; but remember too, that I shall then be no longer master of the post; therefore let such of your letters as come by it, contain nothing but what will bear an opening previous to mine. But when you can have a safe opportunity of conveying a letter to me, write more fully, and tell me what passes at the Hague, what is said of my resignation, and how things go at your little Court, which, if I do not mistake, will be subject to great variations and frequent ones.

Adieu for this time, my dear Dayrolles; and be convinced that, knowing as I do your merit, your good heart, your truth, and your affection, I shall, though hereafter a very useless one, be ever

Your very faithful friend.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 38.)

London, February 9, 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

Le sort est jetté: you receive this letter from a sincere friend, but not from a Secretary of State; and I know you to be so true a friend too, that I am sure you value it more in the former character than in the latter. Last Saturday * I resigned the Seals into the

* On the 6th of February, O. S.

King's hands, who parted with me in the most gracious manner possible. My health, my spirits, and my character, all concurred in this measure, and made it absolutely necessary for me. I retire without any personal quarrel with any man whatsoever; and if I disapproved of measures, it was by no means upon account of their authors. Far from engaging in opposition, as resigning Ministers too commonly do, I shall, to the utmost of my power, support the King and his Government; which I can do with more advantage to them, and more honour to myself, when I do not receive five thousand pounds a-year for doing it. I shall now, for the first time in my life, enjoy that philosophical quiet, which, upon my word, I have long wished for. While I was able, that is, while I was young, I lived in a constant dissipation and tumult of pleasures; the hurry and plague of business, either in or out of Court, succeeded, and continued till now. And it is now time to think of the only real comforts in the latter end of life, quiet, liberty, and health. Do not think, by the way, that by quiet and retirement I mean solitude and misanthropy; far from it, my philosophy, as you know, is of a cheerful and social nature. My horse, my books, and my friends, will divide my time pretty equally; I shall not keep less company, but only better, for I shall choose it. Therefore do not fear finding me, whenever you take a little turn here, morose and cynical: on the contrary, you will find me as gentle as a dove; but, alas! not so amorous. At least, whatever else you find me, you will always find me with the truest affection,

Yours.

P.S.—Pray make my compliments to my Baron, and thank him both for his books and his letters: I will do it myself very soon.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, February 9, O.S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

As you will be asked a million of questions about my resignation, I have wrote you the letter in which this goes enclosed, by way of brief for you to talk out of; and moreover, you may if you please, (though with some seeming difficulty,) show the letter itself to the curious. Various and absurd reports will, I know, be stirring upon this event; I cannot help that, and must pay that tax as well as other people. One of those reports I am sure will be, and indeed in some measure already is, that my ambition was boundless, and that because I could not be everything, I would be nothing; to which I shall only answer, that if such were my ambition, staying in Court was a much more likely way of gratifying it than going out; and that my chance was far from being a bad one, if I would have tried it, as an ambitious man certainly would have done. But upon my word, I gave you my true motives in my former letter, I told them to my friends here likewise, and as for the rest of the world, they are welcome to refine and speculate as much as ever they please for

Yours sincerely.

Point de Vivacité!

Temper, Temper!

The Duke of Newcastle has taken my department, (in truth he had it before) and the new Secretary, whoever he shall be, will have the Southern. The difficulty is where to get one ; some talk of the Duke of Bedford, to hold it till Lord Sandwich can come from the Congress ; but nobody is yet fixed.

Whoever it shall be, I will venture to prophesy that he will not agree with his colleagues so long as I did.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 97.)

à Bath, ce 15 Février, V. S. 1748.

Vous me reprochez, Madame, un silence que votre esprit ne peut pas regretter. Vos reproches me sont d'autant plus flatteurs que je les dois uniquement à vos sentimens d'amitié ; c'est par là seulement que je prétends vous tenir, et quoique vous ne vouliez pas m'accorder des sentimens en général, ayez la justice de faire une exception en votre faveur. Il est vrai, je ne suis pas ami banal ; si je l'étois, mon amitié seroit indigne de la vôtre. Il me faut premièrement bien connoître mes gens ; je ne veux point un ami sans sentimens, parcequ'il a de l'esprit, comme je ne veux pas non plus d'un ami à sentimens, qui n'a pas le sens commun. Il faut des sentimens réciproques pour former l'amitié, mais aussi il faut réciproquement de l'esprit pour la conduire. A cette confession de ma foi amicale, jugez, Madame, si vous n'en êtes pas le premier article. Les lettres, il est vrai, sont les messagers et de l'amour et de l'amitié, mais n'en sont

pas toujours des preuves, et trop souvent même elles ressemblent plutôt à des ministres qui mentent pour le service de leurs maîtres. Sur ce pied donc, si mes lettres ont été moins fréquentes en dernier lieu, cela ne décide de rien à mon désavantage; la fausseté n'est-elle pas toujours infiniment plus exacte à remplir les devoirs extérieurs que la vérité? Mais en tout cas, Madame, gare l'avenir, et le loisir que je viens de me procurer. Vos plaintes pourroient bientôt être d'une autre sorte, si votre politesse ne s'y oppose pas.

Il y a à cette heure douze jours que j'ai quitté mon poste de Secrétaire d'Etat; vous l'aurez certainement su par les nouvelles publiques, mais vous n'en aurez certainement pas su les véritables raisons, que le public sait rarement, et n'allègue jamais: d'ailleurs, elles sont trop simples pour être crues; elles ne sont donc véritablement que l'amour du repos, et le soin de ma santé, qui en exigeoit. Pour s'acquitter passablement de cet emploi, il faut un travail sans interruption, et une attention sans relâche, deux articles qui ne s'accordent nullement avec ma paresse naturelle, ni avec ma santé délicate. Il y falloit aussi sacrifier toutes les douceurs de la société et de la vie privée, ce qui convenoit encore moins à mon humeur: enfin, après y avoir mûrement réfléchi, je me suis décidé en faveur du repos, et s'il eût été possible de me faire changer de sentiment, je dois avouer que la manière gracieuse et affectueuse, dont le Roi a tâché de me détourner du parti que j'avois pris, auroit plus que tout autre chose fait cet effet.

Je jouis donc à présent d'un repos qui a d'autant plus de charmes, que je ne l'ai jamais goûté auparavant. Dans ma jeunesse, la dissipation, et le tumulte

des plaisirs, auxquels je me livrai sans reserve, ne m'en laissoient point, et pendant ces dernières vingt années, les affaires m'en ont laissé aussi peu ; il étoit donc bien tems d'en jouir, et grace à Dieu j'en jouis pleinement à présent. Il y a six jours que je profite de ma liberté pour boire ces eaux ici, qui ne manquent jamais de me rétablir, et je m'apperçois déjà que mes indigestions commencent à se corriger ; la parfaite oisiveté de ce lieu ne laisse pas que d'y contribuer aussi.

Je languis pour les lettres, qui doivent m'expliquer votre *Quipos** et autres paroles mystiques dans votre dernière ; je ne les ai pas encore reçues, mais je m'en fie bien aux soins de l'Abbé de la Ville, à qui je suis redevable de mille attentions. Adieu, Madame, tout brusquement, mais pas pour long-tems.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

Bath, February 23, O. S. 1748.

Me voici, mon cher enfant, enjoying liberty and idleness, but attended with a great cold, which I got upon the road, in the coldest weather, and the deepest snow, that I ever remember. This has hindered me from drinking the waters hitherto ; but that is no great matter, as I came here more for the sake of quiet, and absence from London, while I was the

* The strings or threads used, it is said, by the ancient Peruvians to supply the want of writing, and lately brought into notice by Madame de Graffigny, in her *Lettres Péruviennes*.—See vol. ii. p. 280 of this edition.

only subject of conversation there, than for any great occasion that I had for the waters.

Without affectation, I feel most sensibly the comforts of my present free and quiet situation ; and if I had much vanity in my composition, of which I really think that I have less than most people, even that vanity would be fully gratified, by the voice of the public upon this occasion. But, upon my word, all the busy tumultuous passions have subsided in me ; and that not so much from philosophy, as from a little reflection upon a great deal of experience. I have been behind the scenes, both of pleasure and business. I have seen all the coarse pullies and dirty ropes, which exhibit and move all the gaudy machines ; and I have seen and smelt the tallow-candles which illuminate the whole decoration, to the astonishment and admiration of the ignorant audience.

Since my resignation, my brother,* as you will have seen in the newspapers, is appointed Commissioner of the Admiralty, which he never would have been as long as I had continued in, the resolution being taken to exclude all those who might otherwise have been supposed to have come in upon my interest. As I retire without quarrelling, and without the least intention to oppose, I saw no reason why my brother should decline this post ; and I advised him to accept of it, and the rather as it was the King's own doing.

George Stanhope† too, I am told, is now to have the rank of Colonel given him, which I could never procure him ; so that it seems I have a much better interest out of place than I had in.

* The Hon. John Stanhope.

† Son of the first, and brother of the second, Earl Stanhope.

All goes well at Leipsig; the boy applies and improves more than I expected. Count and Countess Flemming, who saw him there, and who carried him to the Duchess of Courland's, gave me a very good account of him; and assured me, that he was by no means the awkward English oaf, but *passablement décrotté*. He shall stay there a year longer, and then go to Turin. If you should accidentally hear, or can procure, any memoirs of his private character, pray let me know them.

Remember the cautions which I gave you in one of my former letters. When Lord Sandwich goes to the Congress, you will have a great deal to do, and play a considerable part, at the Hague; which I know you are able to acquit yourself of very well. This, I think, will put you *en train d'être Monsieur l'Envoyé*, upon Lord Sandwich's return to his post here, which will be before it is very long; for, however little peace is at present intended, necessity will soon make it by the means of the *Maréchaux de Saxe et Lowendahl*; and then, being upon the place, I think you may reasonably ask, and probably obtain, the character and appointments of Envoy.

The more to facilitate this point, make your court as much as possible to the Prince of Orange,

“Et sachez qu'en ceci

“La femme* est comprise aussi.”

For a word dropped in a private letter from *sister* to *sister*, may be of great use upon that occasion.

May you have all you wish! Adieu, yours.

* The Princess of Orange, who was probably, as Lord Chesterfield hints, in constant correspondence with her sister in England, Princess Emily.

TO THE BISHOP OF WATERFORD.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 234.)

Bath, March 1, 1748.

MY DEAR LORD,

I THANK you for your kind letter, by which I am glad to find that you approve of my resignation, and of my resolution to enjoy the comforts of a private life: indeed, I had enough both of the pageantry and hurry of public life, to see their futility, and I withdraw from them, *uti conviva satur*. This conviction from experience secured me from regret: those who have only seen the gaudy outside of great stations, languish for their hidden charms, which in my mind soon satiate after possession.*

I am very glad to hear that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and your family here this summer; I know that I cannot see a truer nor a warmer friend, which, I assure you, you may say too when you see me. I suppose that you will stop in your way in Nottinghamshire to see your son, whom as you return, you will probably take with you to Ireland.

I have been here now a fortnight, and have found good by the waters, not that I had any great occasion for them; but, to say the truth, I came here chiefly to be out of the way of being talked to, and talked of, while my resignation was the only object of conversation in town.

Adieu, my dear Lord: I cannot tell you how sincerely and affectionately I am

Yours.

* "When I had the honour to see Lord Chesterfield, some time after his resignation, one reason he told me why he was glad he had resigned, was because it was very difficult, in the public station he was in, to be entirely free from doing things that were not quite right."—Note by the Bishop of Waterford.

TO DAVID MALLET, ESQ.

(Mahon's History of England, vol. iii. Append. p. 77, second ed.)

Bath, March 9, 1748.

SIR,

I AM very much concerned at the continuance of your complaint, and am afraid that you increased it by the letter which you favoured me with. I shall put your eyes to that trial no more of a good while at least, for I shall be in town next Monday or Tuesday, and I hope for the rest of my life, except now and then a little excursion to this place, which always does me good. I can say to you now, without a compliment, what I could not with truth have said to you some years ago, which is, that I do not know a pair of eyes in which I interest myself so much as I do in yours. I use the word, "interest," here very properly, for it is from the use of your eyes that I expect the best employment for my own.

By this time I suppose that I am a little out of fashion, as a subject of political refinements; and that new matter has shoved me off the coffee-house tables. I own I should not have been sorry to have heard, unseen, the various speculations thrown out, and facts asserted concerning myself of late; which I dare say were full as near the truth, as those will be, which some solid historians of these times will transmit to posterity. Not one of them will allow the desire of ease and quiet to have had the least share in my determination; but on the contrary will assert that it was only the pretence of disappointed ambition. Lord Chesterfield would be Cæsar or nothing, says a spirited politician; there is something more in this affair than

we yet know, says a deeper; he expects to be called again, says a third; while the silent pantomimical politician shrugs at every thing eventually, and is sure not to be disproved at last. They are all welcome; let them account for my present situation how they please, this I know, and they do not, that I feel and enjoy the comfort of it.

Before I left London I spoke to Mr. Pelham concerning you; he told me that he had been exceedingly pressed by Lyttelton in favour of Thomson and West. I answered that I had a great value for them both, and should be extremely sorry to hurt either, but they had already something, and could therefore, in my opinion, better wait a little than you. Our conversation ended, as all those conversations do, with general assurances on his part, that he would do for you when he could. None but he who gives these assurances can know the real value of them; for he could not say more if he meant to realize them, and he would not say less if he did not: all that I can say is, that he shall not want a remembrancer. The situation of your affairs makes me only more anxious, but not more desirous to serve you than I was before; as it was your merit, which I did know, and not your circumstances, which I did not know, that made me, what I ever shall be,

Your most faithful friend and servant.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 101.)

à Londres, ce 15 Mars, V.S. 1748.

REVENTU des eaux, et établi en ville, me voici en état, Madame, de vous en faire ressentir les effets, par le nombre de lettres dont je vous accablerai. Je suis à présent dégagé de tous les devoirs, excepté ceux de l'amitié, où vous méritez sûrement une préférence marquée; ajoutez aussi, s'il vous plait, à ce devoir, le plaisir que j'ai à le remplir, et vous ne douterez plus de mon exactitude; vous aurez peut être plutôt sujet de vous en plaindre.

Je suis en vérité bien affligé de la triste fin du Comte de Coigny* surtout par rapport à Monsieur le Maréchal, que j'honore comme il le mérite. Je crains même pour sa vie à l'âge qu'il a: pour résister à de pareils malheurs, il faut la force, et les occupations d'un âge moins avancé que le sien; au lieu qu'à présent il n'a rien pour interrompre la continuité des idées accablantes. Dites-moi, je vous en prie, Madame, toutes les particularités de cette malheureuse affaire; je m'y intéresse au point d'en demander les circonstances, ce qu'on fait toujours dans les malheurs, quoiqu'elles ne servent ordinairement qu'à en augmenter le poids. J'écris au Maréchal par vos ordres, étant bien sûr que cela convient, puisque vous le dites; sans cela j'aurois cru qu'il auroit mieux valu ne pas percer le voile devant la douleur paternelle.

* The Comte de Coigny, son of the Maréchal of the same name, appears to have been killed in a duel. According to M. Villenave, *un propos offensant tenu au jeu à un prince légitimé lui coûta la vie, le 4 Mars, 1748.*

Ma liberté m'est d'autant plus flatteuse qu'elle me présente une perspective de vous revoir un jour à Paris : quand ce jour, pour lequel je languis véritablement, viendra, je trouverai ma place à mon bureau bien avantageusement troquée contre une place à souper chez vous. Je compte qu'assurément la paix m'ouvrira le port de Calais dans le cours de cette année. Nous ruinons votre commerce et votre marine, vous ruinez nos bons alliés les Provinces Unies : on se lassera de part et d'autre de ces ruines réciproques, et on est viendra à une liquidation.

Je n'ai pas encore reçu les *Contes Péruviens* ; je m'impatiente, et en attendant, votre *Quipos* me donne la torture.

Voulez-vous bien avoir la bonté de dire à la Princesse de Montbazon, que j'avois exécuté ses ordres avant même que de les avoir reçus, et que j'avois obtenu la permission du Roi pour que Monsieur le Prince de Montbazon et quelques autres chevaliers de Malte prisonniers pussent faire leurs caravanes. Monsieur le Marquis de Puisieux l'avoit demandée par le canal de Milord Sandwich, et j'ai eu le plaisir de finir les fonctions de mon emploi par là.* Je crois incommoder moins Madame la Princesse de Montbazon, en

* The following is an extract of the letter on this subject from *le Bailli de Froulay de Tessé, Ambassadeur de Malte près S. M. Très Chrétienne*, which was transmitted to Lord Chesterfield. After giving the names of *le Chevalier Louis Constantin de Rohan, Prince de Montbazon, Enseigne de Vaisseau*, and other naval officers in the French service, who had been taken prisoners and allowed to return to France on parole, he adds, *Ils supplient très humblement qu'il leur soit en outre permis d'aller faire leurs caravanes sur les galères et vaisseaux de Malte, où ils serviront une puissance qui observe inviolablement la plus exacte neutralité dans les différends entre les Princes Chrétiens et ils donnent leur parole d'honneur de se représenter toutes et quantes fois ils en seront requis.*

ne lui écrivant pas, simplement pour accuser la lettre dont elle m'avoit honoré. Adieu, Madame, sans compliment.

Ayez la bonté aussi de donner l'incluse à mon aimable rival Monsieur de Nevers. Je ne la ferme pas, afin que vous voyez que vous ne nous avez pas encore menés jusqu'au cartel.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, March 22, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM now returned from the Bath in a state of health, which I have not known of some years, and which is owing to quiet of mind and exercise of body. I am now master of my own time, and of my own motions. I do whatever I please, whenever I please, and am mightily pleased with it.

I have received your two letters since my last; in one of them you went too far, and seemed to have forgot, that I might possibly not be the first reader of it. *Soyez sage*, for that will be a better security to you, than anything that Lord Sandwich can say to you, for I do not rely much upon his professions.

I lay no great stress upon Keith's* remaining at the Hague, which I do not think is with any other design but only to be the channel of a certain correspondence between the Duke of Newcastle, the Prince of Orange, and Lord Sandwich. *A propos* of that correspondence, Charles Bentinck is come here to con-

* Robert Keith, afterwards *Chargé des Affaires* at Petersburg, &c.

tradict every word that his elder brother said six months ago. He has confessed the impotence of the Republic; has owned that they are disappointed in their levies; and has desired to borrow twelve hundred thousand pounds, or at least a million sterling, without which he says that the Republic must be inevitably ruined. When the King heard the purport of Charles's commission, he said *Chesterfield told me six months ago that it would be so*. As to his loan of a million at least, he has been told, that, if he can get it, *à la bonne heure*, but that it is not very likely that he should, when our own loan is at five *per cent.* discount, and when it is very doubtful whether the further payments will be made at all. At last he came down to beg for God's sake, that we would, at least, take the whole expense of the Russians upon ourselves, for that the Republic cannot possibly pay the share that they had stipulated. What answer he has received to that request I do not yet know. Money was never so scarce in the city, nor the stocks so low, even during the Rebellion, as now; which you, as a monied man, certainly know. Twelve *per cent.* is offered for money, and even that will not do. And if there is not a certainty of peace in three or four months at furthest, an entire stagnation of all credit, if not a bankruptcy, is universally expected.

Could you buy me two hogsheads of superlative good claret at Palairot's, or any where else, and send it me over by some English ship, as you know the Act of Navigation requires? I would have it of the first growth, and a strong body. I trust to your distinguishing palate for the quality of it. I am in no sort of haste for it, so that you may take your own time to

taste, consult, and at last to fix. Only do not send me any, unless you can be sure of sending me what is extremely good.

Make my compliments to our friend when you see him. I am heartily glad of Wolters's new employment.*

Yours affectionately.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, April 8, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

SINCE my last to you I have received your two letters with their inclosures, which were a letter and a duplicate from Madame de St. Gille, at Madrid. She wants to have a certain Spanish prisoner exchanged, and, thinking me still in office, applies to me for it. I have, however, got it done, as I inform her in the inclosed; which I desire that you will forward to her some way or other. The safest way, I believe, will be to give it to the Marquis del Puerto's Secretary. It may give you an opportunity, if you have a mind, to send her something tender from yourself; for I remember you was one of her lovers, and went so far at least, as to talk a great deal of — to her.

When the Treasury meets after Easter, Mr. Pelham has promised me that you shall be paid every shilling that is due to you, so that then you will be out of debt. I hope you take care to live within your appointments, and to lay up all your own, that in case

* As Agent to His Majesty at Rotterdam.

of any *revers* you may not be a loser by your commission. Pelham told me in confidence that you were in danger soon after I went out, but that now you were very safe again. But Hop told me yesterday, that in the copy of a Resolution of the States which he had received lately, he was sorry to find it said, that that Resolution should be communicated to Mr. Keith. Be that as it will, *laissez faire*, and be quiet; and give them no handle by any complaints on your part, to complain of you; for I have reason to believe, that notwithstanding all the assurances given you, they would be glad to have you out of the way; but if you give them no *prise* upon you, Pelham, I am sure, will protect you against them.

The deliberations about the christening,* and the magnificence and profusion of it, were surely *déplacés* at this time; at least it is thought so here, unless it proceeded from a resolution of dying merrily. Your end seems to me to be near. Maestricht, I am persuaded, will be taken in a fortnight *de tranchée ouverte*; and after that there is not any one place that can hold out a week. Maréchal Lowendahl's leaving his former destination of Breda and Zealand, in order to join the Grand Army, convinces me, that something more is intended there than the taking of Maestricht; and I dread the next letters from Holland, bringing us an account of the Duke's army being cut off in the whole, or in part. All my predictions are now verifying too fast, as on the other hand, all the assertions of the eldest Bentinck when here, and of Lord Sandwich from the Hague, have proved absolutely false. Our army, which was, ac-

* Of the Prince of Orange's son, afterwards his successor.

according to their calculation, to consist of 192,000 men, is actually weaker than it was last year; and that peace, which the Republic will in a few weeks be obliged to sign upon the drum head, will be such a one, as will prove how much those were in the right, who were for treating last year upon the foot of Maréchal de Saxe's proposal to Ligonier.

Here is a pamphlet come out entitled, *My Apology*,* which I will send to my Baron, with a bundle of other pamphlets, by the first opportunity, and he will show it you. It makes a very great noise here, as you will easily conceive that it must when you read it. Many people really believe, and many desire that it should be believed, to have been written by my direction at least; but, upon my word and honour, so far am I from having any hand directly or indirectly in it, that I do not so much as guess at the author, though I have done all I could to fish him out.

As to your flame, you have given me two very good reasons for not extinguishing it in matrimony; particularly that of her father's being likely to live these thirty years. As to the family madness, should it break out upon the lady, she would then be but a very little madder than most other women!

Pray do not buy me any claret till you hear further from me; for I am lately informed, that there is great difficulty in importing it here, even in an English bottom. But in the mean time you may be tasting eventually if you please.

* "An apology for a late resignation, in a letter from an English gentleman to his friend at the Hague." London, 1748, 8vo. It was commonly ascribed to Lord Marchmont, who in consequence, says Horace Walpole, "was very near losing his place." (To Sir H. Mann, Dec. 2, 1748.)

Their Graces of Richmond are at their own motion reconciled to Fox,* and Lady Caroline. They were aware, I believe, that in case of any changes, Fox stood foremost: and therefore thought it right and prudent to take him in time, and not to stay till the view of interest would have been too strongly marked.

It is time to finish this letter. Good night then,
my dear Dayrolles. Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, April 19, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received yours of the 19th N. S. The situation of the Republic is now exactly what six months ago I foresaw and foretold it would be; there was indeed no conjuration in that prediction, nothing having happened since, that was not the necessary effect of causes well known then.

What will the Republic say of those who, well knowing all that time its situation, represented it so falsely, as to encourage us to continue the war this campaign, to bring the now-impending ruin upon the Republic and ourselves? *Those here* who were in that secret, in order to exonerate themselves, now lay all the blame upon *those who brought*, and upon those *who sent* the false accounts of those great resources and irresistible efforts, which we might depend upon on the part of the Dutch this campaign. What

* Henry Fox (afterwards the first Lord Holland) who had contracted a clandestine marriage with Lady Caroline Lennox, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond.

reason, say they, had we not to believe those accounts which we received in so authentic a manner; and who could have thought that Mr. Bentinck would have so grossly misrepresented the state of the Republic, in order to engage us in measures, more immediately fatal to Holland than to England? The answer to this is so obvious, that I need not mention it. You cannot wonder, nor do I, that Mr. Keith, who was originally in this mystery of iniquity, is to carry on the rest of it, and that you are excluded; and indeed I think you are not unlucky in being quite clear of it. Our foreign bottoms must soon be now wound up, by a very bad peace which will soon be made, and then I believe you will, for some time at least, be the only English Minister at the Hague, for I take it for granted, that Keith will return from the Hague with Lord Sandwich unless he can get to be made Envoy, which he tried for in Lord Stair's time, but could not prevail; and I can hardly think that the King will be persuaded to make him Envoy. At all events, if they will not let you remain, there is no help for it; but do not give them a handle for it, by any unguarded words.

If you should by accident know or hear of a *Van-der-Poll*, pray let the person know that I am very much obliged to him for his correspondence, which is very instructive; and that I beg he will continue it. I do not know who he is; and if you should, do not send me his name in a letter by the post; for I know that most letters from, and to, me are opened.*

* It appears from Mr. Dayrolles's MSS. that the letters to Lord Chesterfield signed "*Adrian Van-der-Poll*," in a disguised hand, and in the French language, were in reality from Mr. Dayrolles himself,

I am not yet able to guess who wrote my Apology, which I am the more surprised at, as it must be somebody pretty well informed, all the facts being very near true. An answer to it is advertised, but not yet published. I am impatient to see it, that I may know, as I easily shall when I read it, whether it is written by order or not; if it is not, I shall not meddle with it; but, if it is, it shall have a reply.

Pray tell my Baron, that I have received his letter, and will answer it before it is long. He will be able to send me all the little French books that come out, when Maréchal de Saxe, with his army, shall be at the Hague; for then all the French officers will be at the Baron's levee, and glad to show him those little civilities!

The Duke of Devonshire will, I believe, resign soon,* and be succeeded by the Duke of Marlborough. Adieu, dear Dayrolles: Yours sincerely.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 105.)

à Londres, ce 3 Mai, V. S. 1748.

L'EMPLOI que je ne quitterai de mes jours, mais que j'exécuterai avec zèle, c'est celui, Madame, de votre

as a secure channel of communication. A private letter in his own name, dated August 25, 1748, and sent over by Sir Matthew Decker, further shows that until that period Lord Chesterfield himself was not aware who Van-der-Poll really was.

* William, third Duke of Devonshire, was at this period Lord Steward of the Household. His resignation did not ensue until June, 1749, when, according to Lord Chesterfield's prognostic, he was succeeded by the Duke of Marlborough.

commissionnaire dans ce pays ; et quoique je n'aie plus le pouvoir de faire tout ce que je voudrois dans cette charge, donnez moi au moins les occasions d'y faire tout ce que je puis. Dans le moment que j'ai reçu l'honneur de votre dernière lettre, je me suis intéressé pour la liberté de Monsieur le Chevalier d'Albert,* mais heureusement pour lui et malheureusement pour moi, il y avoit plus de quinze jours qu'il étoit parti pour aller en France. Que ne m'avez-vous chargé de cette affaire plutôt ? ou bien je l'aurois fait, ou en tout cas, j'en aurois pris le mérite ; car pour dire le vrai, je souhaite tant d'en avoir auprès de vous, que ne je ne me ferois pas conscience d'en voler à d'autres.

En accusant tant de vos lettres à la fois, je sens bien que je m'accuse moi-même, c'est-à-dire que les apparences sont contre moi ; mais au fonds je ne suis rien moins que coupable, car quoique je n'aie pas eu l'honneur de vous écrire depuis que j'ai reçu trois de vos lettres, vous ne m'avez pas moins occupé pour cela. Au contraire, ayant prévu depuis quelque tems que la paix se feroit bientôt, j'ai travaillé sans relâche à vous faire des *Quipos*, dont je chargerai le premier gros bâtiment qui ira d'ici à Calais. Oh ! la belle et utile invention que les *Quipos* ! je ne doute nullement qu'on ne s'en serve déjà à Paris. En vérité celle des lettres étoit trop usée, elle trainoit les rues, le peuple même s'en servoit, et il manquoit aux honnêtes gens quelque nouveau moyen de s'entrecommuniquer leurs idées. Me direz-vous que vous aurez de la peine à déchiffrer mes *Quipos* ? Je vous dirai que c'est tant

* A sea-captain in the French service. He commanded the *Magnanime*, a man-of-war of 74 guns, which was taken by two ships of Sir Edward Hawke's squadron, January 31, 1748.

mieux, et que les beaux esprits d'aujourd'hui ne se laissent tout au plus que deviner, et cela même assez rarement; d'ailleurs les vieilles vingt-quatre ne suffisoient réellement pas pour exprimer les nouvelles découvertes des modernes, au lieu que les *Quipos* (sur tout s'ils s'entortillent en chemin faisant) dépeindront bien plus naturellement la nouvelle quintessence des sentimens qu'on n'a jamais sentis. On dit toujours qu'il faut flatter le lecteur en lui laissant quelque chose à penser; les *Quipos* donc doivent bien flatter le lecteur, en lui laissant tout à penser. Enfin, Madame, quelque difficiles que mes *Quipos* vous paroissent d'abord, je compte assez sur votre pénétration pour être persuadé que vous les comprendrez tout aussi bien que vous avez compris les deux tiers des livres, qu'on a publiés chez vous depuis dix ans.

Félicitons nous, Madame, réciproquement de la paix faite.* Je crois qu'elle nous convenoit aussi réciproquement; nous vous ruinions par mer, vous nous ruiniez par terre: vous faisiez des conquêtes sur terre dont vous n'aviez pas besoin, aux dépens de votre commerce, et de votre marine, pendant que nous prodiguions sur terre les fruits de l'un et de l'autre. Il n'a pas tenu à moi que cette paix ne se fût faite l'année dernière; soyons plus sages à l'avenir, et restons bons amis. Nous connoissons chacun à présent notre élément, le vôtre c'est la terre, le nôtre c'est la mer, et nous nous y tiendrons à l'avenir. Si nous eussions fourni à nos alliés en argent la moitié seulement de ce qu'ils nous ont coûté par terre, et que nous eussions employé l'autre moitié de surcroît par mer, vous auriez été plutôt las de la guerre; car moyennant cela, la

* The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Reine d'Hongrie auroit eu de plus grandes armées par terre, puisque ce n'est pas les hommes, mais l'argent qui lui manquent, et nous aurions eu de plus grosses flottes, qui non seulement ne nous coûtent rien, mais qui nous apportent des sommes immenses. On a fait un calcul, que je crois être assez exact, de la valeur des prises que nous avons faites pendant cette guerre, et (le croiriez-vous ?) il monte au moins à cinq millions de livres sterlin. A dire le vrai, quoique la guerre vous ait sûrement été fort glorieuse, nous y avons gagné au fonds plus que vous. Nous avons conservé à la maison d'Autriche tous ces pays qu'au commencement de la guerre on regardoit comme perdus pour elle ; nous lui avons procuré de plus la dignité Impériale : notre commerce et notre marine, loin d'avoir souffert, se sont beaucoup augmentés par la guerre. Il est vrai de l'autre côté que nos armées en Flandres, et les subsides que nous payions, nous ont furieusement coûté. Vous avez gagné un établissement en Italie pour le redoutable Don Philippe, vous avez eu trois victoires en Flandres, et vous y avez pris un grand nombre de villes que vous restituez ; mais votre commerce et votre marine y ont souffert au point de ne se pas remettre de bien des années. Voilà les fruits de la guerre de part et d'autre : pour ceux de la paix, le plus beau pour moi est celui de pouvoir un jour vous faire ma cour à Paris ou à *Bagatelle*. Je languis pour ce moment sans pouvoir encore le fixer. Vous connoître comme je le fais, et souhaiter ce moment comme je le fais, ne sont que la même chose. Bon soir, Madame.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, May 3, O.S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

MY prophecy, as you observe, was fulfilled *sonica*, which I heartily congratulate both you and myself upon, for, had not that part of my predictions come to pass in the moment that it did, the other part would, which was inevitable ruin. Had not the French politely signed the preliminaries when they did, but resolved to profit of the advantages which they had in their hands, we were undone. Most people here are astonished at the moderation of the French Court, and cannot account for it from any known rules of policy. Deep and profound historians, who must assign some great and political cause for every event, will likewise, I believe, be at a loss to assign such a one for this. But I, who am apt to take things in a more simple light, and to seek for their causes more in the weaknesses than in the wisdom of mankind, account for it in this manner. The King of France is a quiet, unambitious Prince, was weary of the war, and particularly of a camp life, which, as he had once adopted, he could not well lay aside while the war lasted. The French Courtiers are not so unskilful, as not to advise what they know their Prince wishes, no matter whether it be consistent with, or contrary to, the public interest. This very principle, if you do but change the word *Peace* to War, accounts likewise for our continuing the war, so long after it was plain that we were not able to carry it on. But be the causes what they will, our

escape is surely great in general, and the escapes of four people in particular, are almost miraculous. The Duke of Cumberland has escaped defeat and disgrace. The Prince of Orange has escaped being deposed, and the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord Sandwich, being —.* I do not therefore wonder in the least at the general joy, which you tell me is expressed at the Hague upon this occasion, from the Princess and the Baron, to the fisherman at Scheveling. Must not Bentinck now confess that either he lied like a tooth-drawer while he was here, or else that he knew nothing at all of the state of his own country? And must not Lord Sandwich confess himself a dupe, if he will not acknowledge himself to be something worse?

When you happen to see *l'ami* of Amsterdam, tell him, pray, that I am obliged to him and his *ami*, and that I hope they will continue to let me hear from them. In the hand, and the other circumstances in which they write, the Devil cannot discover them here; all the care that is necessary is only to put their own letters privately into the post.

I believe the King will set out from hence next Saturday seven-night: I suppose that you will be at Helvoet to meet him, where I desire that you will be particularly attentive to do Lady Yarmouth any services that you can; she deserves them from us both, being much my friend, and yours.

Adieu, mon enfant; portez-vous bien.

* Thus in the MS.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, May 13, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

YOU answered the Prince of Orange's question, concerning me, perfectly well; far from blaming the peace, I am heartily glad that it is made. I was for making it sooner, and consequently better. I foresaw and foretold our weakness this campaign, and would have prevented, by a timely negotiation last October, those evident dangers to which it must necessarily expose us, and which we have escaped more by our good fortune than our wisdom. I may add, that my resignation made this peace, as it opened people's eyes with relation to the imminent dangers of the war, and made the continuation of it too strong a measure for our Minister to stand. As a proof of this, I resigned on the 6th of February last, and on the 9th Lord Sandwich had orders sent him to make the best peace that he could, but to make any rather than none. The Republic is saved by it from utter ruin; and England from bankruptcy.

The King sets out this night or to-morrow morning for Holland, attended only by Mr. Stone.* It is given out that the Duke of Newcastle is to follow in three weeks: but that is only given out, but not intended; for I have reason to be pretty sure that he will not go at all. The King would not let either of the Secre-

* The brother of Dr. George Stone, Primate of Ireland, and who afterwards himself became sub-governor to the Prince of Wales. Horace Walpole calls him "a cold mysterious man, of little plausibility," but "the bosom confidant of the Duke of Newcastle."—Memoirs, vol. i. p. 248.

taries* go to Hanover: but as the Duke of Bedford has strongly solicited to go, in case the Duke of Newcastle did not, it is to be said, that the latter is to go, in order to put off the former without offence.

Sir Matthew Decker goes in the yacht with Stone, and will be sometime at the Hague, where I desire that you will do him all the service, and show him all the civilities, that you can. You may say anything to him, and send me any letter by him when he returns, for I can entirely depend upon his friendship and secrecy.

Lord Sandwich has asked leave to come over here for a little time upon account (*as he says*) of his own private affairs; that you may believe or not as you please.

I have heard of no new Minister named for the Hague; but I am told there is to be one. I should guess Lord Fane,† who solicits much to go to Spain, but has been refused. The Duke of Richmond, I believe, will go to Paris as Ambassador for the representation part, which part he will certainly do well.

Yours most truly.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 113.) •

à Londres, ce 24 Mai, V.S. 1748.

COMME tous nos vaisseaux qui vont en France sont si chargés de bleds ‡ que je n'ai pas encore pu trouver

* The Duke of Bedford had succeeded Lord Chesterfield as Secretary of State.

† Charles Fane, second and last Viscount Fane. He was afterwards ambassador at Turin and Constantinople.

‡ The southern provinces of France were greatly distressed for want

place pour mes ballots de *Quipos*, je vous écris, Madame, à la vieille mode, selon l'invention de Cadmus, qui imagina, dit-on, les lettres il y a deux ou trois mille ans ou plus ; mais j'aurois beau me servir des vieilles ou profiter des nouvelles inventions, pour vous communiquer mes pensées, je n'en trouverai pas sûrement quelqu'une qui vous expliquera comme je le voudrois toute la vivacité et la vérité de mes sentimens, et il me faudra toujours vous laisser quelque chose à penser sur cet article ; mais j'en suis moins en peine parceque je sais que vous pensez trop juste, pour ne me pas rendre justice. Nous jugeons ordinairement des autres par nous-mêmes, et ceux qui ont des sentimens eux-mêmes, en supposent toujours aux autres, à moins qu'ils n'ayent fait leurs preuves du contraire.

L'invitation que vous me faites de venir Ambassadeur à Paris, auroit été bien tentante il y a quelques années. Le bruyant et le brillant avoient, je l'avoue, des charmes pour moi ; mais à present que la douceur de la vie est mon unique objet, je trouverai bien plus mon compte à vous rendre mes devoirs comme petit particulier et voyageur. Milord Chesterfield jouiroit à son aise et sans interruption de la société, et des aimables soupers, de la rue de Verneuil ; * au lieu que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur se trouveroit souvent obligé de renoncer à de si doux momens, pour recevoir, et pour expédier des paquets ennuyeux, essuyer des cérémonies, ou jouer au plus fin avec vos Ministres. Non, Madame, je veux que vous soyez l'unique objet,

of corn, and England at that period was frequently an exporting country.

* In the Faubourg St. Germain, the town-house of Madame de Monconseil.—See Lord Chesterfield's letter to Mr. Dayrolles, of April 27, 1750.

et non pas l'épisode, de mon voyage à Paris; ce ne sera pourtant pas cette année, mes arrangemens particuliers ne le permettent point, et d'ailleurs, dans la situation présente des affaires, le public, qui cherche, et qui trouve finesse en tout, me supposeroit négociateur secret, et d'autant plus important pour cela.

Voici la paix qui s'arrondit, notre bonne alliée la Reine d'Hongrie y a pris déjà sa place, et votre bon allié Catholique,* sans doute, en fera de même. Tout ceci auroit pu se faire également il y a deux ans, si l'Angleterre et la France l'eussent voulu, et elles y auroient toutes deux gagné: nos alliés réciproques nous ont coûté bien cher; profitons au moins de cette expérience à l'avenir.

Votre élève, dont vous avez la bonté de vous informer, est actuellement à Leipsig, où il restera encore sept mois pour finir un certain cours d'études auquel cette université est très propre, c'est-à-dire la langue Allemande, l'histoire, et le droit public de l'empire. De là il fera un tour, pour six mois, à l'académie à Turin, afin de le décrotter, au point que vous en ayez moins honte, quand il aura l'honneur de vous appartenir à Paris. Oui, Madame, je me sers du terme de vous appartenir, puisque du moment qu'il sera à Paris, j'y renonce; c'est à vous à en ordonner comme vous jugerez à propos, je ne m'en mêlerai plus. Votre amitié m'est garant que vous voudrez bien vous charger de ce soin, et rien au monde ne peut m'être si sensible. Jusqu'ici sa conduite, et les progrès qu'il a faits, me donnent tout lieu d'espérer qu'il ne sera pas indigne de vos soins.

* The King of Spain.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, May 30, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

As this letter will be safely given to you by Monsieur Hop it shall contain the true state of affairs in this country, as far as they relate to those in yours. It may be useful to you to be *au fait* of them, and I will never omit being of any use to you that I can. Now that the peace is as good as made, I find that Lord Sandwich is for loading the Prince of Orange with all the blame with which he knew that the public loaded him. He affirms, that all the accounts which he sent here, of the immense sums of money, and the incredible number of troops to be raised by the Republic for the campaign of this year, he took from the positive assurances of the Prince of Orange, and that they would have been realized if the Prince of Orange had employed that time in acting, which he threw away in talking, and if he had not lent himself to the advice and insinuations of the enemies of both countries, meaning the Pensionary Gilles and his party. This language the Duke of Newcastle adopts and holds by way of excuse for his own conduct in rejecting all terms of accommodation last winter. The Duke of Cumberland too joins in with them, and lays the whole blame upon his brother-in-law, who I find is excessively ill with him. The King, who by the way, never loved the Prince of Orange, easily received, and now obstinately entertains these notions; as it has appeared but too plainly of late, by his extraordinary reception of the Princess Royal at Mainland Slys, and of the Stadtholder at Utrecht. But what is more

surprising is, that the two Bentincks give in to this too; and complain that the Prince of Orange has, to a great degree, withdrawn his favour and confidence from them and placed them in the Pensionary and the Republican party. Upon which they are strongly soliciting here, that Lord Holderness,* who you know married a relation of the Greffier's, (who, by the bye, I perceive is the *ame damnée* of the Bentincks), should be sent Ambassador to the Hague with instructions to support their interests with the Prince of Orange, and to let him know that the King cannot place any confidence in him, unless he places his entirely in the Bentincks and the Greffier. This measure, absurd as it is, we are willing enough to take here; but the difficulty is, whether Lord Holderness is capable of carrying it into execution, so that he is not yet absolutely fixed upon for that commission. Should we take this silly step for the sake of the little Bentinck cabal in Holland, we shall unite all parties there against us, and reduce the Prince of Orange, who is certainly not naturally inclined to it, and the Republican party, which certainly is, to prefer the friendship of France to ours. France will not be negligent in offering it, and has such specious reasons to give for that preference, that those who do not think very deep, or who are provoked, are very likely to be captivated by them. Lord Sandwich, who had pressed for leave to return to England during Monsieur de St. Severin's† absence from Aix-la-Chapelle, was refused,

* Robert D'Arcy, fourth Earl of Holderness, afterwards Secretary of State and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. In 1742 he had married the daughter of M. Doublet, member of the States in Holland.

† The French Plenipotentiary at the Conferences of Aix-la-Chapelle.

and ordered to go to the Hague during that interval, but he absolutely declined that, saying that he would not have anything more to do with the Prince of Orange. And I believe, that when the definitive treaty shall be concluded, and that he returns here for good and all, he will endeavour to avoid even going through the Hague if he can. Thus I have told you all that has come to my knowledge concerning these affairs, and what I have told you may possibly enable you to fish out more where you are. You will make that use of these informations, which you may think most for your own advantage, but you will take care not to give any body reason to suspect that you had them from me. As for your own conduct, I think it is obvious what it should be; that is, that you should keep clear of all these cabals and intrigues, and go straight forward with your own business. But at the same time I would advise you to make court to the Prince and Princess of Orange, and to give them to understand that you will belong to them and them only. That will be in my mind the best ground you can stand upon; for the Bentincks, I know, want to get rid of you: Keith, if he can get nothing better, will likewise push at you; and Sandwich, whatever he may profess to you, has, I am sure, a stiletto ready for you upon occasion, so that though the Prince and Princess of Orange have not much interest here at present, yet I think they will be your best support. When you shall see the Duke of Newcastle, who will ask you a thousand questions, take care to appear in a great degree ignorant, but by all means absolutely disengaged from, these *brigues*; tell him that you confine yourself entirely to your own business, which

you have endeavoured to do to the best of your power, and as you hope, to the King's and his Grace's satisfaction; but that you are ignorant, because you are determined to keep clear of all cabals and private intrigues; and that you hope that while you observe that conduct there, you shall have nothing to fear from hence. Lady Southwell,* who as you know is lately arrived here, told one who told it me again, that it was thought that you stood upon slippery ground at the Hague, ever since I resigned; that indeed you were very well with the Prince and Princess, but that others had a mind to have you out of the way. I lay no great stress upon what she says, knowing her to be the silliest woman in the world, but as I suppose that she picked up this among people who knew more than herself, I thought it worth informing you of.

The Duke of Newcastle did certainly at first not intend to go abroad; but when he perceived that it was generally suspected that he did not mean to go, and that it occasioned a great deal of talk and ridicule, he determined, much against his will, to *brusquer le passage de mer*,† and certainly goes next week. *Il brillera bien dans les pays étrangers!*

* Margaret, daughter of A. C. Hamilton, Esq., married in 1741 Thomas George Viscount Southwell.

† The Duke of Newcastle's fear of the sea, as of most other dangers, was excessive. According to Horace Walpole, "he has hired a transport; for the yacht is not big enough to convey all the tables, and chairs, and conveniences that he trails along with him, and which he seems to think don't grow out of England." (To Sir H. Mann, June 7, 1748.) On another occasion, in 1752, we find: "The King set out for Hanover; the Duke of Newcastle, who attended him, would not venture himself in any yacht but the one in which Lord Cardigan had lately escaped a great storm!" (Lord Orford's Memoirs, vol. i. p. 243.)

I guessed that the letters which I received, signed Van der Poll, came originally from *L'ami*; but I showed them here, pretending not to guess in the least from what quarter they came, in order to prevent, (knowing that they opened at the Post Office) any suspicion of the quarter from which they really did come; this precaution had its effect, and they are convinced here that those letters really came from Amsterdam. They were very instructive and useful to me; pray tell *L'ami* so, and that I beg the continuation of them, if he can find an opportunity of putting them into the post either at the Hague, or at Amsterdam, unsuspected, for as for here they will not have the least suspicion. In the last sheet I received, the author says that he is *L'ami de L'ami*, which I should think must mean either Torch or Randwych. Let me know when you have an opportunity; but be sure not to answer one word of this letter by post, any more than barely to acknowledge the receipt of it. When any body comes over here, that you can trust with a letter to me, you may explain this and many other things to me; but by the post, remember to say nothing but what you are willing should be read before I read it. Mr. Pelham tells me that you are, and promises me that you always shall be, paid up to the utmost. Adieu!

Yours faithfully.

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TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 10, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I WAS glad to find by your last, that the King and you are so well together ; though, if you are to be demolished, that intimacy will not serve you. But in my opinion, you are very safe, and though you will not be in the secret, I think you will continue in your place as long as you think fit. An Ambassador will certainly be sent to the Hague ; but who it will be, I have not yet discovered ; nor do I believe that it is settled. Lord Holderness, it is true, has a mind to it, and the Bentincks have strongly pressed for him, but yet I believe it will not do ; that business is thought to be above him, as it certainly is. Should it be one person, whom I am apt to suspect, I will answer for your being very well with him, and for his doing you all the service he can.

The Duke of Newcastle will be with you about the same time that this letter will ; he relies upon your doing everything for him at the Hague. You may easily guess what a hurry and bustle he will be in, in this beginning of his travels ; therefore be officious about him ; which you know he loves. But at the same time, *renfermez vous dans votre ignorance* ; and tell him that you neither know nor meddle with anything out of your own sphere. And hint to him, likewise, that you hope that he will protect you against any attempts that may be made to remove you, and that you rely wholly upon his protection.

This will flatter his silly vanity, and quiet his silly jealousy.

I have had a letter from Sir Matthew Decker full of your praises, and of acknowledgments for your civilities to him. You may write to me by him, when he returns, anything that you have upon your heart.

I am now extremely busy in moving to my new house, where I must be before Michaelmas next; so that, between my old house and my new one, I have really no house at all. As my new house is situated among a parcel of thieves and murderers, I shall have occasion for a house-dog; and as Madame's son and heir* puts you to expense of board-wages, it may be a conveniency to us both if you transfer him to me; if you approve of this proposal, write to your gardener (Horace and Boileau both wrote to theirs) to send him to me; and I will take care, that, by your return, you shall have a hopeful son and heir of his to succeed him.

Pray give or send the enclosed to Sir Matthew Decker, to whom I do not know where to direct. Tell my Baron, that I have received his *Droit public de l'Europe*;† that is, the first volume of it. As far as I have gone yet, I like it mightily. I hope he will send me all the other volumes. I will write to him soon. Good-night.

* A dog, to which Mr. Dayrolles had given the name of Baron Trenck.

† By Abbé Mably.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 24, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM very glad of what you tell me has passed between you and his Grace; which, together with the trouble and expense that he has put you to, ties him down at least not to suffer you to be hurt. For by the particular circumstance relating to the Greffier, who he desired should recommend you, it is plain to me, that he knew that a certain party was pushing at you. The poor honest Greffier is the tool of that party, and they make him do whatever they please, for which reason, I suppose, his Grace had a mind to hinder him from engaging against you. I think, you are now quite safe, which certainly before this, you were not; for I know that the Bentincks and Lord Sandwich are so incensed against me, that they would give no quarter to any body whom they thought in the least connected with me. They have, I know, even obliged little Milling to renounce me with the flesh and the Devil, and he now says, that he was mistaken in me, and that I am not now the man he once thought me.

Pray, how was Lady Yarmouth to you? I suppose particularly civil: she has promised me to do you all the service that she can; but that indeed is not much: I wish her power were equal to her good-will.

Lord Delawar* and Lord Anson† talk of nothing

* John, Lord Delawar, a general officer in the army; raised to an Earldom in 1761.

† The famous Admiral and circumnavigator, who had been created a Peer in 1747.

here, but of the delicacy of your table, your manner of doing the honours of it, &c. You are in the right to exert upon this occasion ; but take care, however, not to run in debt ; for times of bad payment may come, and in that case a small debt would soon run up to a great one. You will laugh at my preaching economy to you.

The mob in Holland, I see, has got the better, and abolished the farms ;* which will be attended with many inconveniences to the Government, though the farms were attended with some relatively to the people. I suppose, that the scheme of the Pensionary Slingelandt will now be taken up ; and, it is undoubtedly the best. But be it ever so good, any point, however right in itself, when extorted by the violence of the mob, is a dangerous precedent, and encourages those gentlemen to further demands, which at last can only be refused by regular force. And I prophesy, that you will see, before you leave the Hague, the now-quieted mob in motion again upon some other occasion.

Baron Trenck† arrived this morning, and seems to be a very civil gentleman : your gardener, a man of gravity and dignity, assures me, that his taste for mutton has left him ; and that there are few Surrey gentlemen so well behaved as he is ; which I can very easily believe.

I cannot tell you by the post, who the person was, whom I hinted at as a candidate for the embassy to the Hague. Lord Holderness is the person strongly solicited for from your side of the water, but thought

* "The taxes farmed and gathered by the excise-officers, called "*Pachters*."—Note by Mr. Dayrolles.

† See note to the last preceding letter.

rather too incapable on this side; but as that is a trifling objection, and got over in many instances, it may very possibly be got over too in his favour. Should it be he, I think he is inoffensive and would choose to live well with you; but, should it be the other, I would be bound for him, that he would be your friend, in consideration of your being mine.

Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, July 2, 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

LORD PULTENEY will give you this letter: he is going to Leipsig for some time, and will not stay long at the Hague; but, during his stay there, you will oblige me in obliging him. Pray, present him to the Prince and Princess of Orange, and air him at the assemblies.

My boy goes next spring to Turin, to be *décrotté*, which I am told he wants a good deal. Sir Charles Williams writes me word that he is very handsome, but very awkward—has a great deal of knowledge, but no manners. *Il faut remédier à cela à Turin, et à Paris, après quoi vous y mettrez la dernière main.*

I go to Cheltenham to-morrow for a fortnight or three weeks—not for any present want of health, but by way of preservative against the autumn, when I am apt to have fevers. Good night! Mademoiselle Nassau does not love you in one way better than I do in another.

Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 117.)

à Londres, ce 5 Juillet, V. S. 1748.

VOUS me faites tort, Madame ; je goûte infiniment les Lettres d'une Péruvienne, et ce n'étoit nullement par rapport à elles, que je me plaignois des raffinemens, et des entortillemens à la mode ; au contraire, il y a beaucoup de naturel et de sens commun. J'aurois voulu seulement que Zilia, justement outrée du procédé d'Aza, eût épousé Detterville par reconnoissance. Je ne dis pas par amour ; l'amour ne se transporte pas si tôt d'un objet à un autre, mais il est sûr que l'amour peut s'éteindre, et s'éteindroit tout à coup, pour un objet qui s'en seroit rendu aussi indigne qu'Aza ; alors l'indifférence par rapport à tous les autres objets succède, et non seulement nous permet, mais même nous porte, à nous livrer aux sentimens de reconnoissance et d'estime. Il est vrai que vos auteurs François se sont appliqués bien plus que les nôtres à étudier le cœur de l'homme. La Rochefoucault et La Bruyère en ont bien développé tous les plis, et les replis ; mais leurs successeurs, qui se sont crus obligés, non seulement de renchérir sur eux, mais aussi les uns sur les autres, ont poussé leurs analyses jusqu'au plus fin galimatias.

Vous me pardonnerez, Madame, si je ne suis pas tout-à-fait de votre sentiment au sujet de votre élève ; je crois même vous mener au mien. Faites reflexion qu'il est tout couvert de la poussière des collèges de Leipsig, qu'il n'a point du tout de manières, et que malgré une fort jolie figure, il a très mauvais air ; et

jugez ce qui en seroit, si son premier début étoit dans un monde comme Paris. Ne se sentant pas fait comme les autres, et honteux de ne l'être pas, il éviteroit les bonnes compagnies, qui l'éviteroient aussi à leur tour, et il se refugieroit auprès de ses aimables compatriotes au café Anglois ; au lieu que, dans un petit endroit comme Turin, où il y a pourtant une Cour très polie, une académie bien réglée, et bonne compagnie, il se décrottera insensiblement sans se rebuter ; après quoi, devenu plus présentable, Paris, vos bontés, et ce qui plus est encore, votre exemple, y mettront la dernière main. J'avoue que je m'impatiente, comme un auteur, pour voir une belle et correcte édition de mon ouvrage, ce qui n'arrivera qu'après que vous aurez bien voulu le corriger.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

Cheltenham, July 18, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM very glad to find by your letter that Mr. Keith will soon be out of your way. You are at least so much the safer against misrepresentations ; and I suppose that his residence at Vienna, in the absence of Sir Thomas Robinson, will raise him above the residentship at the Hague. I do not find that it is yet determined who is to be Lord Sandwich's successor at the Hague ; Lord Holderness desires to be so, and the Bentincks press earnestly that he may. Should that happen, I do not think that he would desire to hurt you, for I think him a good-natured inoffensive man,

and I would speak to him very earnestly upon your subject. Your only danger, then, is from the violence and suspicious temper of the two Bentincks, for I do not think that you have one single enemy on this side of the water; and the Duke of Newcastle has, by what he said to you at the Hague, tied himself down not to let you be hurt.

I am very glad that Lord Sandwich's blunder about the day for mutual restitution is set right, and postponed to the last day of October for the Indies; otherwise we might have had a very pretty bill to have paid for the damages which will probably have been done before that time by Boscawen. As the French must have been aware of this, I own I am astonished at their compliance.

I do not see that things tend to quiet in the Republic; the people, having now carried one point,* will want twenty more, of which the Stadtholder must refuse at least nineteen.

This use, however necessary, of his power, will exasperate those who gave it him; and the confusion which must arise from this is obvious. I thank God I am out of the galley; but, however, I wish it fair weather and a good voyage. I leave this place in two days for London. I have been here three weeks, and find myself much the better for the waters. In about a fortnight I shall go for a week to Lord Pembroke's, at Wilton, which will be my last excursion for this year, and then I shall settle in my new house, under the protection of Baron Trenck. I hope that by next summer, when peace shall have taken a certain con-

* The abolition of the *farms*, as stated in the letter of the preceding 24th of June.

sistency, you may get leave to make us both a visit. You will not, I believe, be sorry, and, upon my soul, I shall be glad. Good night! Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 121.)

à Londres, ce 30 Juillet, V. S. 1748.

JE reviens d'un voyage que j'ai fait à quarante lieues d'ici, pour prendre des eaux,* qui m'ont fait beaucoup de bien, mais qui ont contrebalancé ce bien, en me privant pour quelques jours de votre dernière lettre. Je fais encore demain une autre course à la campagne pour quinze jours, pas par choix mais par nécessité, car actuellement je n'ai point de domicile, je déménage de ma vieille maison, et je ne puis pas encore entrer dans ma nouvelle, de façon qu'il me faudra encore quelques semaines vivre aux dépens de mes amis. Encore si la rue de Verneuil ou *Bagatelle* se trouvoit entre mes deux maisons, je souffrirois volontiers le dérangement, qui me fait enrager à cette heure. Dans six semaines j'espère d'être établi, tant bien que mal, dans mon hôtel, où à la fin je serai bien logé. J'ai accommodé la plûpart de mes chambres entièrement à la Française. J'ai une grande cour, et un grand jardin, deux choses très-rares dans cette ville, quoique très-communes à Paris. Enfin, venez la voir, Madame; il n'y a qu'un pas de chez vous ici, et j'ose vous assurer, qu'à l'exception de la bonne chère, de la bonne compagnie, et de tous les agrémens de la société, vous vous croiriez encore à Paris.

* Those of Cheltenham.

On nous a apporté dernièrement de Paris une petite brochure, pas mal écrite, intitulée l'année 1748,* qui prédit, pour le premier du mois prochain, un changement très-considérable ; il ne s'agit de rien moins que de la métamorphose totale et réciproque des deux sexes. Pour moi, qui naturellement ne suis pas trop crédule, j'ai de la peine à le croire, quoique j'y consentirois volontiers à une condition, qui seroit que vous et moi nous changeassions l'un contre l'autre. Il est vrai que vous perdriez bien au change, mais il est aussi vrai, que j'y gagnerois beaucoup, et dans les choses essentielles, qui est-ce qui s'embarrasse de ce que leurs amis perdent, pourvu qu'ils y gagnent eux-mêmes ? La décence veut qu'on sacrifie à ses amis de petits objets, et qu'on leur témoigne des attentions, qui ne coûtent que peu ou rien ; mais on passeroit pour Iroquois, si on poussoit plus loin que cela les sentimens d'amitié. Plut-à-Dieu donc, Madame, que le premier du mois prochain, je me trouve tout-à-coup vous, et que vous vous trouviez votre très-humble serviteur !

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, August 16, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED your last while I was at Wilton, which place Pem has improved so much, that I hardly knew it again. It is now in my mind the finest seat in England. I am returned to a very empty town, which I can bear with very well ; for if I have not all the

* *L'année merveilleuse*, by Abbé Coyer.

company that I could like, I am at least secure from any company that I do not like; which is not the case of any one place in England but London. Besides, I have time both to read and to think; the first I like; the latter I am not, as too many are, afraid of. The rest of the day is employed in riding, and fitting up my house; which, I assure you, takes a good deal of time, now that we are come to the minute parts of finishing and furnishing.

I am very glad that the Prince of Orange has carried the affair of the *Posteries*,* at Amsterdam: it is a great point gained for the public, as that revenue must be very great, and much greater than it was ever owned to be while in private hands. If he will only push such points as are of an evident national utility, he will carry them all, notwithstanding the private or public opposition of particular interests. Queen Elizabeth was, in this free country, as absolute as the Sultan is in Turkey; but then the nation was convinced, that she only desired and exerted that power for the public good.

I cannot think that the definitive treaty will be concluded so soon as we were told it would; and I cannot help entertaining certain suspicions, from the Queen of Hungary's conduct, which I will not communicate to you by way of letter.

Sir Matthew Decker is expected here next week; I am impatient to see him, because I expect to hear more concerning you, and other matters, from him, than letters admit of. I am in no pain about you

* "Till this time, the management and direction of the Post-office were in the hands of private persons, who had the sole benefit of the profits arising from them."—Note by Mr. Dayrolles.

now that Keith is gone, for there must always be a Resident at the Hague; and as the Minister, whoever he is that is to go there, will have the secret, you will be quiet and secure. A much safer situation for you, than if you were let into the *arcana* of an Administration that may possibly not last long.

Pray tell my Baron that I have received his packet of books by Signor Martinelli; and that I am sorry that I put him both to the expense and trouble of sending me the History of the Wars between France and the House of Austria; which is an execrable one, notwithstanding my friend Rousset's panegyric of it in his preface.

Yours sincerely.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 123.)

à Londres, ce 22 d'Aout, 1748.

Ayez la bonté, je vous en conjure, Madame, de dire pour moi à Monsieur le Prince de Conti* tout ce qu'en ma place vous diriez vous-même; alors, avec l'esprit qu'il a il croira que j'en ai aussi beaucoup, car je prétends que vous lui souteniez, en même tems, que je vous l'ai écrit mot à mot. Je ne pense pas que vous soyez assez ladre pour me refuser ce petit présent, dont vous ne sentirez pas le besoin, et que je ne demande que de votre surabondance. Au reste, ajoutez, s'il vous plaît, que je me flatte de pouvoir en quelque tems d'ici lui envoyer des recrues de cette sort de

* Louis François Prince de Conti, born in 1717; a man of cultivated mind and literary taste.

chiens : on en avoit négligé la race, depuis qu'il n'y avoit plus de loups en Irlande, mais j'ai écrit à quelques-uns de mes amis de m'en faire faire.

Vos guerriers auront, du moins pour quelque tems, loisir de chasser, quoique pourtant il me semble que ce traité définitif ne finit point. Je ne sais à qui en est la faute, puisqu'il a paru assez clairement que vous voulez la paix, et qu'il est très-sûr que nous la voulons aussi ; et il me semble que dès que nous sommes d'accord, il faut bien que nos Alliés respectifs marchent.

Sauriez-vous, Madame, qui l'on destine chez vous pour Ambassadeur ici ? Nous supposons ici qu'il a deux concurrens pour cette commission, Monsieur de Mirepoix, et Monsieur le Maréchal de Belleisle ; pour moi je demande seulement qu'il soit de vos amis, et que par conséquent il pense comme moi sur votre sujet.

Je tâcherai de procurer pour Monsieur votre beau-frère les papiers qu'il souhaite, mais à present tous ceux qui seroient en état de me les fournir sont encore en Flandres ; et d'ailleurs, pour vous dire la vérité, je doute beaucoup de l'exactitude de nos militaires dans ces matières-là. Ils se battent bien, il en faut convenir ; mais ils n'ont pas cette attention, et ce goût pour leur métier, qu'ont les vôtres.

Je vois bien que vous ne convenez pas de mes raisons au sujet de votre futur élève : cela n'est pas extraordinaire ; mais ce qui l'est, c'est que je ne me rende point aux vôtres. Il faut en tout des gradations, et les petites villes le prépareront peu-à-peu pour les grandes. Paris fourmille actuellement d'Anglois, que je ne lui donnerois pas volontiers, ou pour modèles ou pour connoissances, mais qui seroient infailliblement l'un et l'autre s'il y alloit présentement ; au lieu que Turin

achevera de le dépayser, après quoi, n'étant plus d'aucun pays, il adoptera sûrement le vôtre. Adieu, Madame; je vous fais grace d'une page entière, récompensez-moi en en ajoutant une à celle dont vous m'honorerez.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, September 2, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED very safe, by Sir Matthew Decker, your long letter of the 23d August, O. S., in which you give me, what I long desired, *l'Histoire amoureuse de la Haye*. As I am personally acquainted with most of the characters, I am convinced that all the facts are true; and I particularly foresee the ruin of one family, from the ill conduct of the lady, which will not be endured when the honeymoon is over. I am now an unconcerned spectator of the transactions of the gallant, as well as of the busy, part of the world—the first from necessity, the latter from choice; so that I only inform myself of them for my amusement, without being any otherwise affected by them than as a citizen of the world. As such, I am glad that the horrors and devastations of war are now suspended; but as such, too, I am sorry to foresee the moment of their revival so near as I think I do: I mean the death of the King of Sweden.* If you will have my prophetic politics, here they are. I think that the Queen of Hungary has made all these diffi-

* Which, however, did not take place until two years afterwards.

culties of coming into the definitive treaty, not in the expectation of succeeding in any one of them, but only with the intention of delaying the return of the Russians, and of forming a plan with Russia, and possibly *some Princes* of the empire, for the recovery of Silesia. Upon this supposition, I expect that she will very soon come into the definitive treaty, in order to be able to employ all her force *elsewhere*. The death of the King of Sweden is, in my opinion, to be the signal for this northern war. The Czarina will not suffer the Prince-Successor to succeed. This Prince-Successor is brother-in-law to the King of Prussia, who has lately, in conjunction with France, guaranteed that succession to him. Reinforcements of Russians are marched into Finland; our Russians loiter in Germany; to me the conclusion is plain.

I am glad that my old friend Van der Duyn* has got a pension, but I am astonished at the size of it. A thousand pounds a year sounds like an English pension; *d'ailleurs*, he has a regiment of guards and a government. This is certain, that the money will not stagnate in my General's strong box, but circulate very quickly through the Hague. *A propos* of the quick circulation of species, it is fixed that Lord Holderness is to be our Ambassador to the Republic, out of compliance to the Greffier and the Bentincks, who insisted upon it. He will, I think, do you no harm, if he does you no good; for, as business will certainly not be my Lord's pleasure, pleasure will, I presume, be my Lord's only business. This too, without the least flattery to you, is certain, that when

* A Lieutenant-General, and one of the College of Nobles in the Province of Holland.

he shall be at the Hague, you will be à *juste titre*, le *beau Ministre Anglois*.

Adieu for this time; you shall hear from me more fully before it is long. Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 127.)

à Londres, ce 5 Septembre, V. S. 1748.

OUI vraiment, Madame, j'ai un boudoir, mais il a un défaut, c'est qu'il est si gai et si riant, qu'on n'y pourra jamais boudier quand on y sera seul : c'est un défaut aimable pour qui aime la bouderie aussi peu que moi, mais en tout cas, il est facile de le réparer, en y recevant les gens maussades, fâcheux, et désagréables, que de tems en tems on est obligé d'essayer. Quand on m'annoncera un animal de la sorte, je courrai d'abord à mon boudoir, comme à mon sanctuaire, l'y recevoir ; là il aura moins de prise sur moi, car, de la façon que nous sommes faits, les objets extérieurs ne sont nullement indifférens par rapport à l'esprit, et tel sot qui m'accableroit dans une chambre lugubre, pourra peut-être m'amuser dans un cabinet orné et riant. De tout ceci il résulte, que la véritable étymologie de boudoir est (pour parler Latin) *a non boudare* comme *lucus* un bois *a non lucendo* c'est-à-dire qu'on ne boude point dans l'un, et qu'on ne voit goutte dans l'autre : au reste si ce trait de profonde érudition vous embarrasse, l'Abbé Sallier, que je salue de tout mon cœur, vous l'expliquera, et vous en fera sentir toute la solidité. Voulez-vous la description, aussi bien que

l'étymologie, de ce boudoir ? La voici. La boisure et le plafond sont d'un beau bleu, avec beaucoup de sculptures et de dorures ; les tapisseries et les chaises sont d'un ouvrage à fleurs au petit-point, d'un dessein magnifique sur un fond blanc ; par dessus la cheminée, qui est de *Giallo di Sienna*, force glaces, sculptures, dorures, et au milieu le portrait d'une très belle femme, peint par la Rosalba.* Je vous ferois la description du reste de la maison, mais comme le second Pline a échoué en voulant donner la description de la sienne, où l'on n'entend absolument rien, je n'ai pas pu espérer d'y pouvoir réussir, et vous savez qu'il est de la sagesse de ne pas tenter des choses au dessus de ses forces.

Il faut que vos Cerbères de la douane soient bien plus inexorables que les nôtres, car j'ai bien instruit mon marchand de ne se pas laisser prendre les étoffes, faute d'un certain compliment, auquel ces Messieurs sont d'ordinaire très sensibles. Il faut espérer que Monsieur votre Contrôleur aura la politesse de relâcher des prisonniers qui doivent vous toucher de si près.

Dites moi de grace, Madame, pourquoi votre Parlement de Paris a tant sévi contre un livre que je viens de lire, intitulé *Les Mœurs*. Comme j'avois lu l'arrêt, avant que d'avoir lu le livre, je m'attendois à trouver dans ce dernier toutes sortes d'impiétés, et de relâchement ; au lieu de quoi j'y ai trouvé la religion et la loi naturelle fortement établies et inculquées, une morale même rigoureuse, et tous les devoirs de l'homme bien constatés. Il est vrai que l'auteur n'adopte aucune

* This lady, a native of Venice, or as others say Vicenza, distinguished herself by her works in crayons. *Ses tableaux*, says M. Artaud, *furent recherchés dans toute l'Europe*. She died in 1757, having lost her sight two years before.

secte particulière, ni culte extérieur en matière de religion, aussi n'étoit-ce pas de son ressort en traitant des mœurs. Je sens bien que les ecclésiastiques de toutes les religions en seront offensés, mais est-ce une raison pour que le Parlement le soit aussi? En vérité je trouve beaucoup de bon dans ce livre, il y a du bon sens, de l'esprit et des portraits bien caractérisés; il est vrai que quelquefois les raisonnements sont plus jolis que forts, et il semble que l'auteur aime souvent mieux orner que pousser son argument. Soupçonne-t-on à Paris qui c'est? pour moi, si je voulois me livrer à des conjectures, j'en soupçonnerois l'auteur des Lettres Persanes.*

Monsieur le Prince de Conti, croit-il que j'ai l'esprit délicat et aimable? C'est-à-dire, Madame, vous êtes-vous acquittée fidèlement de ma commission auprès de lui? En ce cas, que les Rois seroient heureux d'être servis comme moi, puisqu'alors il n'y auroit peut-être qu'une vingtaine de ceux qui les approchent de plus près, qui sauroient qu'ils n'ont point d'esprit!

A propos, le tems est passé sans que la métamorphose que je souhaitois tant se soit faite,† et à présent j'en désespère, car dès que les prophéties ne s'accomplissent pas à point nommé, c'en est fait. Au moins j'ai gagné par l'imposture, et ce que vous me dites sur ce sujet vaut presque la métamorphose même, car je prends tout à la lettre, et je me donne bien garde d'aprofondir cette matière. On est trop heureux d'être

* Namely, Montesquieu. But Lord Chesterfield was mistaken in his conjecture, the book *Les Mœurs* having been written by M. Tous-saint.

† See the conclusion of the letter to Madame de Monconseil, of July 30, in the same year.

trompé, ou de se tromper soi-même, agréablement : je voudrois bien que vous pussiez m'avoir une pareille obligation, mais le moyen ?—vous ne me tiendriez aucun compte de vérités reconnues, et pourtant on n'y peut rien ajouter ; vous donnez beaucoup à penser, mais vous ne laissez rien à dire.

TO THE REV. DR. MADDEN.

(Appendix in vol. iv. of Works, p. 95.)

London, September 15, 1748.

SIR,

I AM very sensibly affected with the late mark which you have given me of your remembrance and friendship. I assure you that I deserve them both, as far as the truest regard for your parts and merit can entitle me to them.

Your Poem, of which I have read the first Canto with equal pleasure and attention, has (without any compliment to you) a great deal of wit and invention in it : the characters are perfectly well preserved ; and the moral, which it is easy to foresee from the first Canto, is excellent. You cannot doubt of my being proud to have such a performance addressed to me ; and I should be prouder of it still, if the author's name were to appear ; but, as your friend, I must confess, that I think you in the right to conceal it ; for, though the moral be good, yet, as the propriety of characters has obliged you to put some warm expressions in the mouths of Venus and Cupid, some silly or malicious people might lay hold of them, and quote them to your disadvantage. As to the Dedic-

tion, I must tell you very sincerely, and without the least false modesty, that I heartily wish you would lower it: the honest warmth of your friendship makes you view me in a more partial light than other people do, or, upon my word, than I do myself. The few light, trifling things that I have accidentally scribbled in my youth, in the cheerfulness of company, or sometimes (it may be) inspired by wine, do by no means entitle me to the compliments which you make me as an author; and my own vanity is so far from deceiving me upon that subject, that I repent of what I have shown, and only value myself upon what I have had the prudence to burn.

Though my cares for Ireland are ceased, you do me but justice in being convinced that my wishes for the prosperity of that country will cease but with my life. The best wish that I could form for it would be, that half its inhabitants were like you: nay, I would compound for twenty who would, like you, devote their thoughts, their time, and a proportionable share of their fortunes, to the public good. Your late considerable benefaction to Dublin College will be a perpetual monument of your public spirit, and your love of mankind. How greatly would arts and sciences flourish in Ireland if those who are much better able than you are, would contribute but half as much as you do to their improvement! You shine, indeed, the more for it; but I know you well enough to know, that you would rather *prodesse quam conspici*. The Irish may be a rich and happy people, *bona si sua nórint*. Free from the heavy load of debts and taxes under which the English groan, as fit for arts, sciences, industry, and labour, as any people in the world, they

might, notwithstanding some hard restraints which England, by a mistaken policy, has laid them under, push several branches of trade to great perfection and profit; and not only supply themselves with everything they want, but other nations too with many things. But jobs and claret engross and ruin the people of fashion, and the ordinary people (as is usual in every country) imitate them in little momentary and mistaken views of present profit, and in whisky. As to the incorporating by Charter the Dublin Society, I see many advantages that might arise from it; but I must at the same time own, that I foresee some dangers too. Jobs have hitherto always accompanied Charters, however they may have been calculated to prevent them. The Dublin Society has hitherto gone on extremely well, and done infinite good: why? Because, that not being a permanent, incorporated Society, and having no employments to dispose of, and depending only for their existence on their own good behaviour, it was not a theatre for jobbers to show their skill upon; but, when once established by Charter, the very advantages which are expected from, and which, I believe, will attend that Charter, I fear may prove fatal. It may then become an object of party, and Parliamentary views (for you know how low they stoop); in which case it will become subservient to the worst instead of the best designs. Remember the Linen Board, where the paltry dividend of a little flax-seed was become the seed of jobs, which indeed produced one hundred fold. However, I submit my fears to your hopes; and will do all that I can to promote that Charter which you, who I am sure have considered it in every light, seem so desirous

of. Mr. Macauley, who is now here, has brought over the rough draft of a Charter, which he and I are to meet and consider of next week. I hope your worthy fellow-labourers, and my worthy friends, the Bishop of Meath and Mr. Prior, are well. May you long be so, for the good of mankind, and for the particular satisfaction of

Your most sincere friend and faithful servant.

I hope you will send me the other Cantos by proper opportunities, for I long to see them.

TO ALDERMAN FAULKNER.*

(Appendix in vol. iv. of Works, p. 76.)

London, September 17, 1748.

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I AM much obliged to you for the marks of your remembrance and friendship which you send me from time to time. The Sermon of Robert Hort, A.M., is certainly of a very singular nature; but as you do not give me your opinion upon it, I shall not give you mine. Possibly, indeed, we have neither of us formed one. Thus much only, I will say, and that very sincerely, that if Mr. Hort is in the right, I heartily wish that you may live to see and feel, that general *Restoration and Perfection of all things*; as by the one you will recover your natural leg; and by the other, the letter of your Journal will be as black as ink, and the paper as white as snow, which I

* Mr. George Faulkner was a printer and publisher (and also in due time an Alderman) of great note at Dublin. Several of Swift's later letters were addressed to him.

reckon make up the perfection of a Journal. But whatever may be the state of printing in those days, however black your letter, however white your paper, I observe with concern, that you are not likely to have Mr. Hort's custom or interest, his sermon being printed by S. Powell. In the meantime, I hope business goes on well, and that you print and sell a great number of books, whether they are read or not. If they become but fashionable furniture, it will serve your purpose as well, or it may be better; for if people bought no more books than they intended to read, and no more swords than they intended to use, the two worst trades in Europe would be a Bookseller's and a Sword-cutler's; but, luckily for both, they are reckoned genteel ornaments. Here has been lately published the first volume of a History of the Popes, by one Mr. Bower, who was a Jesuit at Rome. It is extremely well wrote, and I believe it would be very well worth your while to print an octavo edition of it at Dublin; for our edition here is a large quarto, and consequently, an expensive one. When finished, it will be four quartos.* As yet, no lesser edition has appeared here. In this, or any other undertaking, I assure you, that nobody can wish you more sincerely well, than

Your friend and servant.

As I know you often see the Chief Baron,† whom I esteem and honour much, pray make him my compliments.

* The work was not completed in less than seven volumes quarto.

† The Lord Chief Baron at this time was John Bowes.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 133.)

à Londres, ce 22 Septembre, V. S. 1748.

C'EST que je ne sais plus comment m'y prendre avec vous, Madame, vous rejettez les vérités les plus simples parcequ'elles vous sont avantageuses. Pour les complimens, nous les avons déjà bannis de notre commerce depuis longtems; et si vous voulez seulement entendre parler de vos défauts, il faut vous adresser à quelqu'un qui vous en connoisse. Il est vrai qu'on s'entend dire plus volontiers les choses qu'on voudroit mériter, ou que, par illusion, on croit mériter, que celles qu'on mérite réellement. Un ancien, je ne sais plus lequel, disoit à Trajan; *la flatterie est épuisée depuis longtems envers vos prédécesseurs; tout ce qui nous reste donc à votre égard, c'est d'oser nous taire.** Voilà donc le parti que je prends.

Que je languis pour vos bras, Madame! L'expression paroît vive et tendre; il faut l'expliquer, en cas qu'on ouvre la lettre. Je languis donc pour ces bras de porcelaine, que vous avez la bonté de m'envoyer par le retour de mon marchand, qui, depuis qu'il est au monde, n'a jamais été attendu avec une impatience égale à la mienne. Je m'en fie bien à votre goût, et je ne m'embarrasse pas de la couleur; j'ai déjà toutes les couleurs du monde dans ce boudoir, de façon que vos bras n'y peuvent pas être déplacés, de quelque couleur qu'ils soient. Je vous en remer-

* These are Pliny's words, "Simul cum jam pridem novitas omnis adulatione consumpta sit, non alius erga te novus honor superest, quam si aliquando de te tacere audeamus."—Panegy. lv. 3.

cierai donc, Madame, de tout mon cœur, et tout simplement. Voiture n'auroit pas sitôt quitté un si beau sujet pour son esprit, ni le Chevalier d'Her—* pour ses épigrammes.

Votre homme à feu est employé dans le grand feu d'artifice qu'on doit tirer ici au sujet de la conclusion de la paix ; je crains seulement que sa poudre ne se moisisse, et que ses préparatifs ne se gâtent, avant que la traité définitif qui ne finit point ne se finisse. Je serois charmé de rendre service à votre artiste, mais vous me pardonnerez, j'en suis sûr, si en entrant d'abord dans ma nouvelle maison, je ne lui donne pas l'occasion de la faire sauter ou bruler, ou d'en enfumer même les meubles ; suites ordinaires du voisinage d'un feu d'artifice. Pour votre compositeur Adolphati, je vous dirai naturellement que je n'augure rien d'avantageux pour lui dans ce pays ; l'opéra, que nous devons avoir cet hiver, étant entièrement sous la direction d'un seul *impresario* qui vient d'Italie, et qui mène avec lui, et sa troupe, et son compositeur, de sorte que de ce côté là il n'y a pas d'ouverture pour notre *virtuoso*. Du côté des oratorios, des motets, et de cette sorte de musique, il y en a encore moins ; Handel, qui sans contredit est le plus grand compositeur de l'Europe, en ayant tant donné qu'on en est las, qu'on n'y va plus. Il suffit qu'il me vienne de votre part pour que je fasse tous mes efforts pour le servir ; mais franchement je crains que ce ne soit inutilement.

Bon soir, Madame ; aussi la longueur de cette lettre pourra bien y contribuer.

* The *Lettres du Chevalier d'Her*—were written by Fontenelle in early youth, but never owned by him.—See Lord Chesterfield's letter to his son, of December 24, 1750.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, September 23, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I THANK you for your promise of a second tome of your *Histoire Amoureuse*, when an occasion shall present itself; for, upon my word, Petronius nor Bussy could not write a better than your first. The winter, which will assemble every body at the Hague, will probably furnish you materials.

Your towns and provinces seem to be running a race to the goal of slavery; and they put me in mind of the Nobles and Commons in Denmark, who, in the last century, strove which should first get rid of their liberties. Your Stadtholder must have great self-denial, or great timidity, if he is not very soon as absolute over the Seven Provinces as Louis XV. is in France. For my own part, not being a Dutchman, and having no thoughts of living in Holland, I have no objection to this new-erected despotism; which, for aught I know, may make the Seven Provinces a better barrier for us against France than they were before, as an absolute government is more military, and generally in a better state of defence, than a free one. And upon this principle, were I to cut and carve out Europe to my mind, I would add the other ten provinces to the present seven, and so revive the Duchy of Burgundy;* which, I am sure, would make a better barrier against France, than ever those ten provinces, in the hands of the House of Austria, will prove. A

* As was actually done in 1815 by the creation of the kingdom of the Netherlands.

propos of Austria, the conjectures which I have formed these four months, and which I lately hinted to you, begin, I think to be verified. The Russians stay in Germany, which is the first point; they will certainly some how or other be juggled out of our pay and service, which is the second point; and then the third is pretty plain. *Ce n'est pas mon affaire*. Let the northern bears worry each other as much as they please, the gazettes will be but the more entertaining, and amuse me the more, *dans mon petit boudoir*; which (by the way) will be the prettiest thing you ever saw. Nothing in the world so gay. *Il sera impossible d'y boudier; d'ailleurs, comme vous savez, je n'y suis pas naturellement trop porté*.

I have spoken to Mr. Pelham about your pay; which I believe, will be ordered very soon. However, *Bride en main*; do not run out, *et n'y mettez point du vôtre*. *Vous n'en seriez pas plus gras d'un côté, mais vous en seriez bien plus maigre d'un autre*.

The town is now so empty, that I have no tittle-tattle to send you. The house of Kildare* comes here from Ireland next month; and then, I presume, that your friend, who by this time has got the full ascendant over her husband, will open her campaign with *éclat*; though these are very bad times for the female quality and gentry, it being the great fashion for our young fellows, not only to deal with, but to marry, common w——. So that the unmarried ladies can get no husbands; and the married ones none but their husbands!

Things go to the full as well as I could wish, and

* Lady Emily Lennox, born in 1731, and married in 1747 to James, then Earl of Kildare, and afterwards Duke of Leinster.

much better than I expected, at Leipsig : we are absolute masters of Latin, Greek, French, and German, the last of which we write currently. We have *le droit public de l'empire*, history and geography, very ready ; so that, in truth, now we only want rubbing and cleaning. We begin for that purpose with Berlin at Christmas next ; Vienna at Lady-day ; and the Academy at Turin, at Midsummer ; for a whole year. Then to Paris, *et si cela ne nous décrotte pas, il faut que le diable s'en mêle*. If at any of these places it should fall in your way, by letter or verbal recommendation, to help us, I am very sure that you will ; for I never doubt of any marks of your friendship to the most faithful of your friends.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 64.)

Bath, October 11, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED your letter of the 11th N. S., just as I was setting out for this place. I had been much out of order for above a month ; languors and vertigos succeeded each other, the latter attended with sickness at my stomach. I underwent the discipline of the faculty to little purpose ; who, at last pronouncing that the seat and source of my disorder was my stomach, sent me here. I have already received advantage from these waters, though I have drunk them but four days ; which convinces me that they will set me quite right.

I am persuaded, that your first setting out at the

Hague must have put you behind-hand; but I hope that you will take care to retrieve; for the credit of living a little better will not do you so much good, as contracting a considerable debt will do you harm. If you can get leave to come here for three or four months, when Lord Holderness shall be settled at the Hague, which I should think would be no difficult matter, that suspension of your expense would, I suppose, go near to set you right. But, in the mean time, should you want money, draw upon me *sans façon*; for I will not have you run in debt to anybody else; and you and I can, I believe, trust each other.

By all I can hear now, and by all that I knew before, the Republic is so far from being settled, that I do not consider it as a government or a nation. More money is wanted than is to be found, and even the methods of collecting what is there to be found will not be easily fixed. The people will not have *pachters*.* Collectors, without the powers of the *pachters*, will collect nothing, and with those powers they become *pachters* themselves, in the most odious and oppressive sense of that word. The Prince of Orange has got more power than by the constitution he ought to have; and if he does not get all the rest, he will lose what he has got. *Il n'y a point de milieu*; power must either be constitutional or unlimited. Losing gamesters will not leave off while they have anything left, and will never be quiet till they have lost all. When Cæsar had once passed the Rubicon, he well knew that he must be Cæsar or nothing. And this is now the Prince's case.

* See the note to the letter of June 24, 1748.

I now plainly see the prelude to the Pyrrhic dance in the north, which I have long foretold; the return of Comte Biron and the Duke of Brunswick to Petersburg announces destruction to the Holstein family. The Prince-Successor of Sweden will be the first instance of it, upon the death of that King, which I take to be very near. The next will be, setting aside the Imperial Prince of Russia, and declaring little Czar Iwan the successor. In these transactions, the King of Prussia will necessarily be implicated, which has all along been *l'intention de l'auteur*; that is, of the Court of Vienna, which absolutely governs that of Petersburg, *moyennant* some pecuniary assistance from *another quarter*. But be all this as it will, my *boudoir* and my library, which are my two objects, will be never the worse for it. And I maintain that both of them will be, in their different kinds, the completest things in England, as I hope you will soon have ocular proof of.

Baron Schmitburg was not arrived when I left London. My compliments to my Baron, to whom I will write very soon. Adieu; *Je vous aime véritablement*.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

Bath, Nov. 4, O.S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received yours of the 5th N.S., and am glad to find, that your landed estate pays so well as to make up the arrears of the treasury. As soon as I go to town, which will be next week, I will quicken

Mr. Pelham to pay his debts; but *en tout cas*, I repeat it again, upon any emergency, draw upon me, for, upon my word, such sums as you can want will be no inconveniency to me to advance. You are besides very responsible, whether considered as a monied or as a landed man; so that, if you should be backward in payment, I should forthwith seize Henley Park.*

A propos of money; as I believe it is much wanted by many people, even of fashion, both in Holland and Flanders, I should think it very likely that many good pictures of Rubens, Teniers, and other Flemish and Dutch Masters, may be picked up now at reasonable rates. If so, you are likely to hear of it as a *virtuoso*; and if so, I should be glad to profit of it, as an humble *dilettante*. I have already, as you know, a most beautiful landscape by Rubens, and a pretty little piece of Teniers: but if you could meet with a large capital history, or allegorical piece, of Rubens, with the figures as big as the life, I would go pretty deep to have it, as also for a large and capital picture of Teniers. But as I would give a good deal for them if they were indisputably eminent, I would not give three-pence for them unless they were so. I have pretty pictures enough already; but what I want to complete my collection, is only two or three of the most eminent Masters, of whom I have none now. I can trust entirely to your taste and skill; so that if you meet with such a thing, do not miss it for fifty pounds, more or less.

The packet of *brochures*, and flourished ruffles, which you sent me by Hop, waits for me in town. I am sure, by the former, which you sent me, I shall

* The seat of Mr. Dayrolles, near Guildford.

like these: *je m'en fie à votre bon goût*. I shall go to them in about ten days, though, I doubt, not quite restored by these waters, which have not had their usual effects upon me this season. My vertigos still chicane and teaze me, though not quite so frequently as formerly, but still enough to make me fear passing a languid and uncomfortable winter. Patience: I might have more painful complaints, and I will comfort myself by the comparison.

I have some reasons to believe, that what my Baron mentioned to me of a new successor to Sweden, is by no means groundless. I am very sorry for it, as I think it can only be attended with very ill consequences for this country. Reflect upon the tenure and situation of Bremen and Verden, and upon the amicable disposition of two certain brothers* towards each other, and those consequences will immediately occur to you.

I look upon your Republic as a chaos, in the situation which it is now in; some order may spring from it, but as yet God knows what. The ancient government certainly does not exist; and I see no new one established in its stead. Abject court, it is true, is made to the Prince of Orange, from fear on one hand, and hopes on the other; but still, while he has more power than he should have for the late form of government, and yet less than is necessary to carry on any other, it is no government at all. This was the great difficulty, under which Cromwell, one of the ablest men in the world, laboured, and which he was sensible of, when he wanted to be declared King; for

* This is said ironically, and appears to allude to the differences between the Prince of Orange and the Duke of Cumberland.

he was above minding the title. But he knew, that his government wanted that form and consistency which were necessary for its effect and authority.

The peace is, upon the whole, better than could have been expected, from the circumstances and hurry in which it was made; but the article relating to the hostages,* and that wherein France only renounces the Pretender and his family, by reference to one in an old obsolete Treaty, shock me, as injurious and personally insulting to the King.

I fear you will not get a furlough this winter, for I do not find that Lord Holderness is yet making any preparations for his embassy. *Bon soir, aimons-nous toujours.*

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 137.)

à Londres, ce 21 Novembre, V. S. 1748.

JE reviens, Madame, depuis quatre jours seulement des Bains, auxquels mes vieilles indispositions m'avoient obligé d'avoir recours. Pendant mon séjour là, des vertiges et des migraines rendoient ma tête très-indigne de vous dire la moindre chose, et elle n'étoit guères en état de vous expliquer les sentimens de mon cœur : ce qui m'en consolait, c'étoit que vous les connoissiez depuis longtems. En attendant, je me trouve endetté de quatre lettres, que j'ai reçues de vous par différens canaux; c'est une dette que je ne pourrai

* At the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, two British noblemen, the Earl of Sussex and Lord Cathcart, were sent to Paris as hostages for the restitution of Cape Breton.

jamais payer en espèces de même valeur, et je prétends seulement m'en acquitter par mon obéissance à vos ordres.

Il faut convenir que le théâtre François l'emporte en tout genre sur tous les autres, et même sur les anciens, avec tout le respect que je leur dois.

Je suis charmé des honneurs, dont Monsieur de Richelieu est comblé; il les mérite, ou bien les auroit mérités à Gênes, s'il eût été question de la défendre, mais, graces à nos bons Alliés les Austro-Sardes, cette ville n'a pas seulement été assiégée. Il est vrai qu'il y avoit une soi-disante armée devant la ville, mais pas plus nombreuse que la garnison même, et manquant absolument de tout ce qui étoit nécessaire pour faire un siège. Voila comme nous avons été soutenus partout de nos Alliés; trente mille Autrichiens en ont représenté soixante, qui devoient se trouver en Flandres, et que nous payons comme complets. Heureusement la paix a mis fin à tous ces abus, et il est inutile de regarder en arrière.

Je n'ai pas encore les bras, pour lesquels je m'impatiente si fort, mais ils sont arrivés, et je les attends à tous momens; c'est tout ce qui manque à présent à mon boudoir, qui d'ailleurs est fini, et charmant; j'y entre à Noël.

Adieu, Madame, pour cette fois; ma lettre se ressent de ma tête, et je vous assure que ma tête se ressent déjà de ma lettre.

TO THE REV. DR. MADDEN.

(Works, vol. iv. Appendix, p. 97.)

London, November 29, 1748.

SIR,

A RETURN of my old complaint of vertigos and pains in my head, which sent me to Bath, from whence I am but lately arrived here, and that with less benefit than I hoped for, delayed till now my acknowledgments for your last friendly letter, which accompanied the remainder of your poem. I read it with great pleasure, and not without some surprise, to find a work of that length continued to the end with the same spirit and fire with which it begins. Horace's great rule of *qualis ab incepto* was, I believe, never better observed. If the public receive the same pleasure from it that I have done, you will have the satisfaction of having discharged every office towards mankind that a private citizen of the world is capable of. Your example, your fortune, and your genius, will all have been devoted to the service, the improvement, and the rational pleasures, of your fellow-creatures.

I make no doubt but that the Charter for the Dublin Society, when once you have formed it properly among yourselves, will be granted here; and, upon the whole, I am much for it, and will promote it to my power; not but that I foresee some danger on that side of the question too. Abuses have always hitherto crept into corporate bodies, and will probably, in time, creep into this too; but I hope that it will have such an effect, at first, as to make the future abuses of less consequence. The draught which Mr. Macauley showed me here of

the Charter, seems to have all the provisions in it that human prudence can make against human iniquity.

Good health and long life attend you, my good friend, for the sake of mankind in general, and of that country in particular which will ever have a great share of the warmest wishes of
Yours, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 6, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

By the death of poor John, you have lost a true friend, and I a most affectionate brother and friend into the bargain. The gout fell upon his bowels and head, and threw him into the convulsions of which he died.

I acknowledge now your last of the 6th, N. S., together with your former letters, which my brother's illness and a hurry of other affairs hindered me from answering sooner.

Mr. Pelham has faithfully promised me, that before Christmas you shall be paid up as high as any Minister in the King's service, which I hope will prevent any anticipations.

Lord Sandwich is, I know, impatient to come over, and I know that nobody is ready to go from hence; so that I cannot expect to see you for some months; and in the mean time the whole business of Holland will be in your hands, except what may be separately transacted between Bentinck there and his Grace*

* Of Newcastle.

here. This, I think, is a lucky circumstance for you, as it will put you in possession of the business to a certain degree at least, and consequently strengthen the claim which you mentioned to his Grace. Though Lord Holderness is strongly insisted upon by the Bentincks, and will therefore, I suppose, be sent at last, yet I know that his distinguished incapacity for business staggers a good deal those who are to send him. *Tant mieux* if he goes, you will be of the more importance, which is my only object, for I have done with business, but not with you.

The prices of Van Huysen's flower-pieces, notwithstanding the scarcity of money in Holland, is owing only to that local phrenzy which always prevails in Holland for some pretty trifling object; tulips, hyacinths, and pigeons, have all had their day, and now Van Huysen has his. But while these high-finished finical pieces bear such high prices, the bold and masterly pieces of the last and the foregoing century are slighted, and more likely to come reasonably. Do not, by any means, suffer that capital picture of Rubens, which you say is to be sold at Brussels, to slip through your hands, by the delay of sending me a drawing of it, if you can but be sure that it is an original, and not damaged. Three hundred guineas cannot be dear, and anything under that must be cheap. Wherefore, upon the two conditions of its being an undoubted original and not damaged, buy it me as soon as you can, or some other body may step in between.

Captain Irwine,* whom I believe you know, son to

* See Lord Chesterfield's own letter to Captain Irwine, of April 4, 1749, with the note annexed.

the old General, goes by the next packet-boat to Holland: he has got a furlough from his father for a year, during which time he intends to see as much as he can abroad. I think him a good pretty young fellow; and, considering that he has never been yet out of his native country, much more *presentable* than one could expect. Pray, carry him to Court, and into some companies, where I think you will not be ashamed of him, which will seldom be your case with my countrymen. I promised him that I would recommend him to you. *Adieu, mon cher enfant!* I am so hurried by lawyers, appraisers, and creditors, that I can say no more now.

P. S.—*A propos*, do not mention to anybody that the picture is for me, or what it may cost.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 23, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

MY former was almost an answer, beforehand, to your last letter, which I received the day after I had wrote mine: I mean, with regard to the Rubens, which I desired you not to let slip. But I am now more confirmed in that opinion, by the drawing, which you sent me, and by the assurances that you give me of the picture being a capital one, and in high preservation. Therefore, secure it as cheap as you can; but give the three hundred, rather than not buy it; the subject, as

you observe, might have been a more pleasing one, but this admits of great expression.

The family-piece, which you mention by Vandyke, I would not give six shillings for, unless I had the honour of being of Sir Melchior's family. The several portraits are, I dare say, finely painted; but then where is the action, where the expression? The good man and his wife generally sit serene in a couple of easy chairs, surrounded by five or six of their children, insignificantly motionless in the presence of Papa and Mamma; and the whole family seem as insipid, and weary, as when they are really together. Their likenesses may indeed be valuable to their own posterity, but in my mind to nobody else. Titian has done more skilfully in his fine picture of the Cornaro family, which he has put in action.

The Venus and Adonis of Vandyke, of which you likewise sent me the drawing, I do not care for, as it is a subject already *rebatu* by still greater masters, and in my mind better, as far as I can judge by the drawing; for Adonis, when he tears himself away from Venus, seems fierce and angry, which I see no occasion for. He is determined, indeed, to leave her for his field sports; but should, in my opinion, soften the rudeness by all possible complaisance in his words and looks.

So much for *virtù*, which, when I shall have bought this picture, I have done with, unless a very capital Teniers should come in your way. You will draw upon me for the money as soon as ever you please.

I am really sorry for my Baron's accumulated misfortunes; his terrors must be unspeakable; his wife, if she died, would be a great loss to him, not indeed

in a carnal, but in a domestic sense ; and his son turning out a rascal, fills up the measure. Make my compliments to him when you see him.

This wind which keeps the Duke still in Holland, keeps you in breath, and Lord Sandwich in a fever, who longs to be here, *pour s'orienter*, a little at home. He and *His Grace** were lately by no means well together, and even strong expressions in writing, had passed between them. But all that may come right again, for politicians neither love nor hate. Interest, not sentiment directs them. If Bentinck pouts, he may possibly carry a present point by it, from people, who, it may be, do not yet care to break openly with him ; but he will lose their favour, and even incur their secret hatred. An able man will do whatever he does *de bonne grace quoique le Diable n'y perd rien*. Half anger and half confidence, are the most imprudent things in the world.

Could you send me, in some of your letters, some seed of the right Cantelupe melons ? I should not know what to do with more than a dozen, or at most twenty, of them ; so that all the seed I shall want will neither increase the bulk nor weight of a letter. The Cantelupes are, in my opinion, the best sort of melons ; at least they always succeed best here. It is for Blackheath, that I want it, where you can easily judge that my melon-ground is most exceedingly small. I am obliged to keep that place for seven years, my poor brother's lease being for that time ; and I doubt I could not part with it, but to a very great loss, considering the sums of money that he had laid out upon

* Of Newcastle.

it. For otherwise, I own that I like the country up, much better than down, the river.*

As I promised to send Captain Irwine a couple of letters to the Hague, for Paris, I must put you to the expense of inclosing them to you, and to the trouble of giving them to him, not knowing how to direct them for him.

Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 23, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received yours, with the inclosed drawing of the Vandyke, which must certainly be a very fine one, if the execution, as doubtless it is, be answerable to the disposition: but, however, I continue my negative to it, for the reasons which I gave you before, the price, and that it is a portrait, however fine a one. The Rubens, of which I have a great notion, must and shall, for a time at least, content me, unless I strain a little for the Teniers, which you hint at, which, if it be a capital one, I will; and then have done. My great room will be as full of pictures as it ought to be; and all capital ones.

* This villa at Blackheath afterwards became Lord Chesterfield's constant summer residence. He purchased a prolongation of the lease, built a handsome gallery and other additions to the house, and, with respect to the gardens and hothouses, was, as he says himself, strongly seized with the *Furor Hortensis*. After his death it passed in succession through several other hands, but being built on Crown-land has finally become the Ranger's Lodge, and is given with the office of Ranger of Greenwich Park. Still, however, it frequently goes by the name of Chesterfield House.

I gave you by my last letter a very unnecessary trouble, which I now retract. I had forgot that you had some time ago stocked me with excellent Cantelupe melon-seed, which I have since remembered and found, and given to my gardener to sow at the proper season. I hope to give you some of them in perfection next summer; for I do not flatter myself with the hopes of seeing you here before that time.

I am really sorry for poor Kreuningen, and cannot conceive what will become of him. You gave him the best advice with regard to his son, but yet I doubt it will not do, for either a good, or a bad reputation, outruns and gets before people wherever they go. I do not write to the father myself, not knowing what to say to him, but pray make him my compliments, and assure him of the sincere part that I take in whatever concerns him.

Adieu, dear Dayrolles. I am hurried by a complication of most disagreeable affairs,* but always,

Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 141.)

à Londres, ce 26 Decembre, V. S. 1748.

ILS sont arrivés sains et saufs, Madame, je les ai, j'en suis charmé; le goût en est parfait; vous jugez bien

* "The families of Devonshire and Chesterfield have received a great blow at Derby, where on the death of John Stanhope they set up another of the name. One Mr. Rivett, the Duke's chief friend and manager, stood himself, and carried it by a majority of seventy-one. Lord Chesterfield had sent down credit for ten thousand pounds."—H. Walpole to Mann, Dec. 26, 1748.

qu'il est question de vos bras, dont il n'y a pas un doigt de cassé. Ils flatteront sûrement les yeux de tout le monde, mais à moi, ils me flatteront encore plus le cœur. La main délicate de l'ouvrier sera ce que j'envisagerai le moins ; mais ce sera le souvenir et l'amitié de la personne, qui me les a envoyés, qui leur donneront leur véritable prix. Ils m'ont jetté pourtant dans un certain embarras ; tirez m'en, Madame, par vos conseils ; c'est que je voudrois bien m'en servir, et en même tems je crains de m'en servir. J'en suis glorieux comme d'une belle maîtresse ; mais j'en suis aussi jaloux ; si je ne les produis point, ma vanité en souffrira ; et si je les produis, que sait-on ? Ils sont fragiles, d'autres les toucheront, les casseront peut-être, du moins je craindrai furieusement pour eux dans mon absence. Décidez donc ce que je dois faire. Ils vont aux deux côtés de la cheminée de mon boudoir, comme s'ils étoient faits exprès, je les ai mis, et je les ai ôtés, de sorte que l'affaire est encore dans son entier, et je ne demande pas votre conseil comme on le demande ordinairement, après avoir pris son parti.

La maladie, en ensuite la mort, d'un frère que j'aimois tendrement, joints à ma propre indisposition, dont je ne suis pas encore tout-à-fait quitte, m'ont mis en arrière avec vous en fait de lettres, mais aussi, qui ne l'est pas vis-à-vis de vous en fait de tout ? En cela mon sort est commun, mais ne croyez pas pour cela que mes sentimens le soient aussi ; au contraire, c'est le seul point que je disputerai avec tous vos serviteurs.

P. S.—Les complimens de la nouvelle année sont sous-entendus ; aussi je crois qu'il vaut mieux les sous-entendre que de dire ce qui s'est dit depuis six mille ans.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 27, O. S. 1748.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I RECEIVED this morning your letter of the 3rd of January, N. S., with the two parcels of melon seed, which, as I told you in my last, I might have saved you the trouble of sending me, if I had but remembered how plentifully you had supplied me before; but since I have so carelessly put you to that trouble, all I can now do, is to have it sowed the latest, so that you may be sure to taste the fruits of it when you shall be here, which I do not expect will be till autumn. A new Minister will not, before that time, be well settled at the Hague; and till then you will not, nor should I wish you to, leave it. I can account for a certain person's* having changed his opinion and desiring to remain now where he is. Things are much altered, and the prospect which a little while ago he had here is vanished; his Grace† speaks of him very differently from what he used to do, and their epistolary quarrels are, I believe, remembered with equal resentment on both sides. In my opinion if his Grace could get off his engagement to Lord Holderness and his friend, on your side of the water, he would be glad enough to let the present Minister remain there as long as he pleases, for he dreads his influence over his brother Grace;‡ and not without reason. Tom Villiers,§ who has succeeded my brother

* Lord Sandwich.

† Of Newcastle.

‡ Of Bedford.

§ Afterwards first Earl of Clarendon, of the second creation. Horace Walpole speaks of him as "a very silly fellow."—To Sir H. Mann, December 26, 1748.

in the Admiralty, goes *Ministre de Confiance* to Vienna, which commission he would not accept of without having the Admiralty in hand first. Where this will shove Keith, I cannot guess; only I should not like his coming back to the Hague to Lord Sandwich.

As to my Rubens, for I now call it mine, you have acted with your usual prudence and economy. But if it turns out such as it is represented to you, I do not expect that you will get any considerable abatement of the first price of 300*l*. As to the method of getting it over safe here, I refer myself to your abilities; many officers' baggage will be coming, Ligonier's especially, into which you may possibly thrust it. Draw upon me, in an amicable way I mean, how and when you please; for I do not take your finances to be in a situation to allow long and large advances.

Your Leipzig acquaintance is setting out for Berlin. He has applied himself extremely, and with great success, at Leipzig, having made himself perfect master, as I am assured by his master, of Greek, Latin, the Laws of Nations and of the empire, and of the German language to boot; which, by the way, he writes as well as any German I ever knew. I am therefore no longer in the least pain about the learning part, of which he has now got such a stock, that he will have a pleasure, instead of a toil, in improving it. All that he wants now, is *les Graces*, in pursuit of which he goes, as soon as the roads will permit, from Berlin to Turin, there to remain for at least a year. I know no Court that sends out at least *des gens plus déliés*. I do not know what those may be, whom they keep at home; but by the samples I judge well of them.

The Prince of Wales will, I believe, buy Vandyke's Sir Melchior and company. I have given him the drawing you sent me; and Mr. Laurenzy is wrote to by this post to speak to you about it.

Yours very sincerely.

A MADAME DE ———.*

(Letters, vol. iv. p. 346.)

à Londres, ce 1 Janvier, V.S.

MADAME,

JE ne suis pas diseur de bonne aventure, ains au contraire; car je vous annonce que ces quatre billets,† que j'ai choisi avec tant d'attention, et que j'estimois, l'un portant l'autre, à vingt mille pièces au moins, se sont avisés d'être tous blancs.

Je ne me console de votre malheur que par les belles réflexions qu'il me fait faire, et par la morale utile que j'en tire, pour le reste de mes jours.—Oui! Je vois bien, à présent, que toute la prudence humaine, les mesures les plus sages, et les projets les mieux concertés sont frivoles, si la fortune, cette Divinité inconstante, bizarre et *feminine*, n'est pas d'humeur à les favoriser. Car que pouvoit-on faire de plus que je n'ai fait, et qu'en pouvoit-il arriver de moins?

Se donnera-t'on, après cela, du mouvement, formera-t'on des plans, et s'inquiétera-t'on, pour les choses de ce monde? J'oser dire, que si ces réflexions, aussi judicieuses que nouvelles, font la même impression sur votre esprit qu'elles ont fait sur le mien, elles vous

* This letter, as also one of the following 9th of February, are printed at the close of Lord Chesterfield's correspondence with his son, but have no address of person, nor date of year.

† In the Lottery.

vaudront plus, que tout ce que vous auriez pu gagner dans la loterie.

Vous êtes bien querelleuse, Madame ; jusqu'à m'accorder un talent, que je n'ai pas, pour pouvoir, après, me reprocher de ne le pas employer avec vous ; et je m'épuise, dites vous, en *bon ton*, avec Madame de Monconseil. Quelle accusation injuste, et dénuée de toute vraisemblance ! Un Milord Anglois avec le bon ton ! Ce sont deux choses absolument contradictoires ; ou pour m'expliquer plus clairement, et simplifier mon idée ; ce sont deux êtres hétérogènes, dont l'existence d'un implique, nécessairement, la privation de l'autre.

Me voici donc justifié dans toutes les formes de la logique ; et si vous n'en êtes pas contente, Madame de Monconseil, qui a en main mes pièces justificatives, pourra vous en convaincre. Au reste ; si j'en possédois tant soit peu, ce nouvel an me fourniroit une belle occasion de l'étaler. Et quoique depuis plus de cinq mille ans, toute la terre ait traité ce sujet ; je vous dirois quelque chose de nouveau, de galant, et d'obscur, dont on ne s'est jamais avisé auparavant : votre mérite, et les sentimens de mon cœur, y seroient alembiqués, jusqu'à la plus fine quintessence.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, January 20, 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

LAST post brought me yours of the 24th, N.S. My old disorder in my head, which has of late plagued me, hindered me from acknowledging your

two former letters. I am now much better, thanks to a good blister, which I clapped upon my head, on the part offending.

Since the Rubens is secured, I am in no haste to receive it, for I could not hang it up yet, its place not being ready. The way you mention of sending it by the sloop is, I think, the best; and pray let it be directed to Mr. Hotham, one of the Commissioners of the Customs, who will take care of it, and pay the duty for me. You will take care to have it so safely packed up, that it may receive no damage *en chemin faisant*.

If Lord Sandwich did not really know (which by the way I can hardly believe), that Tom Villiers was to go to Vienna, he must be very little in the secret of affairs here, for it is very well known that Villiers refused going to Vienna, unless he had the Admiralty down first in hand. But I do believe that Lord Sandwich is not upon very good terms with *his Grace*, as my Baron calls him. He arrived here on Tuesday night. The town talks him out of the Admiralty, and the Duke of Cumberland into it; but I do not believe either. You have convinced me that you need not fear the return of Keith, who will look higher.

I am astonished at your being so much behind-hand, for I was most strongly promised that you should, before this time, be cleared off to last Michaelmas at least. I will speak to Mr. Pelham again about it; though after what I have already said to him, and he to me, upon that subject, I fear that it will be to little purpose.

I am glad that I have prevailed with my Baron to

return to his old house, for the first warm weather must have suffocated him where he now is. If he escapes dying of the first fright when he goes back, all the rest will do very well, and go on just as it used to do. His *beaux sentimens pour la défunte*, I dare say, will not kill him.

I am rejoiced to hear that I shall have another *tome* of the *Histoire Amoureuse*, for now that (thank God) I have no business, that kind of reading amuses me. The *Histoire Politique* of the United Provinces would at present be but a gloomy one. I see no Government there at all; but I see power without authority, and expense without the possible means of supplies. The Prince of Orange wants a Sully instead of a Bentinck. The reduction of the troops will be a decisive point: if it is a considerable one, the Prince of Orange is nobody; and if it is not, the Republic is undone.

I have read Lord Sandwich's farewell speech, in which I think there are some things more boldly asserted than clearly proved, for it does not by any means appear to me that the Republic was stronger last year, when the enemy was at its gates, than it was three or four years before, when the French were no nearer than Tournay; nor am I as yet sensible of the great advantages which the change of the Government in the Republic has produced with regard to England, when the former cannot in the whole Seven Provinces raise one hundred thousand ducats to pay its share of the Russians, but is obliged to borrow that trifling sum of the latter. But these reflections are entirely out of my present province, and have nothing to do with my house and garden, which employ both

my thoughts and my time. I am at work about them all day, and shall take possession of them in about a month. There I shall be impatient to see you, and there I believe you will not be sorry to see

Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 143.)

à Londres, ce 26 Janvier, V. S. 1749.

COMME je respecte vos décisions, Madame, infiniment plus que celles des Papes et des Conciles, fussent-ils même œcuméniques, vos bras sont arborés dans mon boudoir, et y font l'effet que vous pouvez bien croire : mais, à ne vous rien cacher, deux autres motifs ont contribué à m'y déterminer ; le premier, que les questions qu'on me fera à leur sujet me donneront tous les jours occasion de parler de vous ; l'autre, que ma vanité trouvera son compte à dire que je les tiens de vous. Croyez-vous que la vanité n'entre pour rien dans les sentimens les plus délicats de l'amitié, et même de l'amour ? Au moins je vous avoue que je ne tiens pas contre la vanité qui me résulte des marques de votre amitié, et bien vous en prend même, qu'il n'est question que de l'amitié, car ma foi je ne répondrois pas de ma discrétion, s'il étoit question de quelque chose de plus. Nous ne mettons jamais les préférences marquées, de la part de certaines gens, que sur le compte de notre propre mérite ; et c'est en partie sur ce principe que j'érige vos bras comme les trophées du mien.

J'ai lui avec attention la pièce que vous avez eu la

bonté de m'envoyer, et d'autant plus qu'elle paroît avoir votre approbation. Vous m'ordonnez de vous en dire mon sentiment; si je pouvois vous obéir à regret, ce seroit dans cette occasion, dans laquelle je vois que mon sentiment est différent du vôtre. Je vous avouerai donc naturellement, Madame, que la pièce n'a pas répondu à mon attente, ni à l'idée que je m'en étois formée, tant par rapport à l'auteur, que par rapport au tems qu'il a travaillé. Je conviens qu'il y a des beaux vers, des endroits brillans, du sublime, et que le caractère de Catilina est achevé; mais après cela, la conduite de la pièce me choque. Quand une tragédie est faite sur une histoire, ou peu connue ou douteuse, comme quand il est question d'un grand Mogol, d'un Sultan, d'un Soliman, d'un Orosmane, il est très-permis à un poète de l'accommoder à ses besoins, et la véritable histoire étant ignorée, le poète devient en quelque façon l'historien: mais de violenter, au point que fait Monsieur de Crébillon, une histoire si connue, si constatée, que celle de Catilina, et peut-être la seule histoire ancienne sur laquelle tous les différens auteurs sont d'accord, c'est en vérité abuser des droits du cothurne. Tullie étoit à la bavette quand Catilina fut tué, et Catilina n'eut garde de se tuer lui-même, pour satisfaire à l'unité du tems et du lieu de Monsieur de Crébillon, mais voulut éprouver premièrement le sort d'une bataille, où il fut criblé de coups à la tête de son armée. Si, par exemple, on vous eût donné une tragédie de Monsieur de Cinq Mars, dans laquelle, pour la commodité du poète, cet infortuné se seroit tué lui-même, au lieu de mourir, comme il le fit, sur l'échafaud; où il auroit été aimé, trahi, et dénoncé par Madame de Combalet, et où le

Cardinal de Richelieu n'auroit paru sur la scène que pour déclarer qu'il avoit une peur horrible, et qu'il ne savoit au monde que faire, qu'en diriez-vous, Madame ? et pardonneriez-vous au poëte un tel outrage fait à la vérité historique ? Je ne le crois pas ; et pourtant l'histoire de Monsieur de Cinq Mars n'est pas plus généralement connue, ni mieux constatée que celle de Catilina. J'allois même dire qu'à peine étoit-elle plus récente, puisque les livres qu'on a presque toujours à la main la renouvellent incessamment. Cicéron, il faut l'avouer, étoit naturellement irrésolu et timide ; mais, malheureusement pour le poëte, la seule occasion où il brilla, et où il témoigna véritablement de la fermeté et du courage, est justement celle où il en fait un linge mouillé ; et le Consul, qu'on admire dans l'histoire, fait seulement pitié dans la pièce. Caton paroît sur la scène, uniquement pour gronder et dire pis que pendre des Romains, car tout ce qu'il fait ne mène à rien dans la pièce. Je me serois passé aussi volontiers de la présence de son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Sunnon, qui ne se produit que pour donner aux François d'aujourd'hui le plaisir de savoir que les Gaulois, il y a dix-sept cens ans, étoient bien les meilleures gens du monde. Je ne puis pas démêler le caractère de Tullie ; aime-t-elle véritablement Catilina ? ou en fait-elle seulement semblant, pour mieux découvrir ses desseins, et sauver la patrie ? Cela n'est pas assez marqué. Si elle aime véritablement Catilina, et en même tems sa patrie, et son papa, déchirée par des sentimens si opposés, et pourtant si forts, sa situation devoit être si violente que tout le monde y prendroit intérêt, au lieu que pour moi, franchement je ne m'en inquiète point, et je la laisse faire. Pour le

caractère de Catilina, il est beau, grand et soutenu jusqu'à la fin, et on l'aime en dépit de ses crimes : mais permettez-moi aussi d'ajouter, que je fais de cela même un crime au poëte, qui n'auroit pas dû choisir un sujet si opposé au véritable but de la tragédie, qui est de rendre le crime haïssable, et non pas aimable. Un de nos meilleurs poëtes Anglois reproche, et pas sans raison, à Milton, que le diable est en effet le héros de son poëme, puisqu'il est par-tout habile, intrépide, même aimable, et qu'il vient à bout de son dessein, qui étoit de damner le genre humain. Il ne faut pas choisir des sujets qui entraînent nécessairement de telles suites. Voila, Madame, ma petite critique.

Au reste, je vous en prie, gardez pour vous seule ces idées hasardées. Si elles sont justes, je ne voudrois pas qu'elles fussent connues, pour l'amour de Monsieur de Crébillon, dont je respecte le génie et le caractère ; et si elles sont fausses, ce qui me paroît le plus vraisemblable, puisqu'elles ne sont pas conformes aux vôtres, je ne voudrois point qu'elles fussent sues pour l'amour de votre très-humble serviteur, qui ne s'érige nullement en critique, et qui aime bien mieux trouver des beautés que chercher des défauts.

A propos de tragédies, Denys le Tyran, par Monsieur de Marmontel, qu'on m'assure n'avoir pas encore vingt-trois ans, annonce un grand poëte tragique ; du moins son coup d'essai me paroît presque un coup de maître. Envoyez-moi, je vous en prie, Madame, la traduction de l'Anti-Lucrèce ; quelque médiocre qu'elle soit, elle aura toujours du mérite, si elle conserve seulement un peu du sens de l'original.

To SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 78.)

London, February 3, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE honoured your bill, as they call it; but, properly speaking I have done better, for I have paid it. I think you have brought me off very cheaply, and so much so, that I shall not own it, when I show the picture, but intimate a much higher price; for you *virtuosos*, I know, often take the price into your consideration, in forming your judgments as to the value of a thing. I sincerely forgive you the three florins, which your curiosity costs me, and will never demand that sum of either you or your heirs, administrators, or assigns. Besides that I really think, that a gratification of three florins is by no means unreasonable for the trouble you have been at. I can tell you by the way, that when my pictures, bronzes, and marbles, shall come to be properly placed, as they will be in my new house, the collection will not appear a contemptible one. There will be nothing, that is not excellent of the kind. I hope you will be here time enough to direct me in the arrangement; for Lord Holderness is now preparing in good earnest for his embassy, and talks of going soon, that is, in two or three months. He has appointed Parson Tindal, who translated Rapin, and well, to be both his chaplain and his secretary; he goes first, as I hear, without Madame, who is to follow him some time afterwards. But though, as you will easily believe, I am impatient to see you, I would not advise you to ask leave to come

over immediately upon his arrival, but to stay a couple of months at least after it.

I had a letter the other day from my Baron, by which he seems to be pretty well comforted, and to thirst again for pamphlets, of which I have sent him a fresh cargo. Pray, when you see *L'ami*, make him my compliments, and assure him of my esteem and friendship. I suppose *qu'il n'est pas question de lui à la Cour*. As for your Republic, it is undone, and I think of it no more. *Conclamatum est*. Adieu.

A MADAME DE ———.*

(Letters, vol. iv. p. 349.)

à Londres, ce 9 Février, 1749.

ADIEU donc toute coquetterie, de part et d'autre, et vive la vraie et solide amitié ! Heureux ceux qui peuvent y atteindre : c'est le gros lot, dans la loterie du monde, contre lequel il y a des millions de billets blancs.

S'il pouvoit y avoir quelque chose de flatteur dans mon amitié ; je dirois, que nous pourrions nous flatter que la nôtre seroit également vraie et durable ; puisqu'elle est à l'abri de tous ces petits incidens qui brouillent la plupart des autres. D'abord, nous sommes de différent sexe, article assez important ; et qui nous garantit de ces défiances et de ces rivalités, sur les objets les plus sensibles, et contre lesquels la plus belle amitié du monde ne tient point. En second lieu, il n'entre point d'amour dans notre fait ; qui, quoique, à la vérité, il donne un grand feu à l'amitié, pendant un

* See note to p. 331, of this volume.

certain tems, la flamme de l'un venant à s'éteindre, on voit bientôt les cendres de l'autre. Et enfin (ce qui me regarde uniquement) nous ne nous voyons pas trop. Vous ne me connoissez que par mon bon côté; et vous ne voyez pas ces moments de langueur, d'humeur, et de chagrin, qui causent, si souvent, le dégoût ou le repentir des liaisons, qu'on a formé, et qui font qu'on se dit à soi-même; L'auroit-on cru? Qui l'auroit dit? Comme on peut se tromper aux dehors! Et la perspective, dans laquelle vous me voyez, m'est si favorable, qu'elle me console un peu *della lontananza* où je suis obligé de vous chercher.

Une caillette a beaux sentimens, critiqueroit impitoyablement ceux-ci comme très *indélicats*; mais en sont-ils moins naturels pour cela? Et ne sommes-nous pas, pour la plupart, redevables de nos vertus à des situations et des circonstances un peu fortuites? Au moins j'ai assez d'humilité pour le croire; et (si je voulois dire toute la vérité) assez d'expérience de moi-même pour le sçavoir. En tout cas, tel que je suis, je vous suis acquis, et vous voyez que je suis de trop bonne foi pour vous surfaire dans le prix de l'acquisition que vous avez faite.

Vous avez beau faire les honneurs de votre pays, et désavouer votre propriété exclusive des Graces; il faut convenir, pourtant, que la France est leur séjour, ou plutôt leur pays natal. Si elles pouvoient se fâcher contre vous, dont il y a peu d'apparence, elles seroient piquées, au point de vous quitter, de ce que vous les envoyez promener dans un pays, où elles ne connoissent, ni ne sont connues de personne: et si par hasard je les connoissois, ce ne seroit que pour les avoir vues si souvent chez vous.

Il est bien sûr que les Graces sont un don de la nature, qu'on ne peut pas acquérir; l'art en peut relever l'éclat, mais il faut que la nature ait donné le fond. On voit cela en tout. Combien de gens ne dansent-ils pas parfaitement bien, mais sans grace; combien il y en a qui dansent très mal avec beaucoup; combien trouve-t-on d'esprits vigoureux et délicats, qui instruits et ornés par tout ce que l'art et l'étude peuvent faire, ne plaisent pourtant guère, faute de ces graces naturelles, qui ne s'acquièrent point! Chaque pays a ses talens, aussi bien que ses fruits et ses denrées particulières. Nous pensons *creux*, et nous approfondissons; les Italiens pensent *haut*, et se perdent dans les nues: vous tenez le milieu; on vous voit, on vous suit, on vous aime.

Servez vous, Madame, de tout ce que cet esprit et ces graces, que je vous connois, peuvent faire en ma faveur, et dites, je vous en supplie, tout ce qu'elles vous suggéreront, à Monsieur de Matignon, de ma part. Mon cœur ne vous désavouera pas sur tout ce que vous pourrez lui dire de plus fort, à propos du mariage de Mademoiselle sa fille: mais ne vous bornez pas à ce seul article, car il n'y en a pas un, au monde, qui peut le regarder, auquel je ne prendrois pas également part. Ce seroit abuser de sa bonté que de lui écrire moi-même: une messagère comme vous me fera bien plus d'honneur, et à lui plus de plaisir.

Adieu, Madame. Je rougis de la longueur de ma lettre.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, February 24, O.S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THE picture is arrived, and is, in my mind, the best I ever saw of Rubens; but as yet I have only my own opinion for it, as I have not shown it, nor will not, till it is in perfect order. A little of the varnish, in some immaterial parts, was rubbed off in the carriage, but the painting not the least damaged. I have given it to Anderson, who is a very safe man, to take off that crust of varnish, with which they are so apt to load their pictures in Flanders and Holland; and, when this picture shall be delivered of it, it will be quite another thing. The figure of the Virgin is the most graceful and beautiful that I ever saw, and not so Flemish-built as most of his women are. In short, the whole is excellent. The frame though not a fashionable is a handsome one, and shall, with the addition that I will make to it, be a fine one. I do not dislike something a little *antique* in the frame of an old picture; provided it be rich, I think it is more respectable. As soon as the supreme connoisseurs shall have sat upon it, I will let you know their verdict, not that for my own part I shall care twopence about it, for I distrust the skill of most, and the truth of all, of them. They pronounce according to the pictures that they either have or have not, or that they want to buy or sell, of the same hand. You are an excellent *commissionaire*; and my most dutiful thanks attend you for your care and trouble.

Pray do not let your *maladie du pays* hurry you into any *étourderie*. The Ambassador's *inefficiency* may very possibly make your stay at the Hague more necessary than you are aware of, and you of more importance, which circumstance may hereafter be of great use to you. Upon his arrival at the Hague, exert yourself to get the best and freshest informations, and write them immediately, and add now and then a few reasonings of your own upon them. By these means your despatches will be the material ones from the Hague. By-the-by, your Court there is by no means well with the Court here, therefore beware of panegyric on the one hand as well as of censure on the other. Blame all unnecessary expenses, and remark that those sums would be better employed upon the Civil and Military Government, *car tel est le ton présent d'une certaine Personne*.^{*} Keep however well with the Ambassador, but tell him nothing but what he knows before, and God knows that will be very little. When you shall thus have shown yourself to be the efficient man there, ask leave *à la bonne heure* to come over here; but then take care to establish such correspondences as may enable you to inform the Ministers here, of what shall be doing in Holland, better than the Ambassador, though upon the spot.

Pray tell my Baron, that I took particular care to send him the *Inquiry into the conduct and principles of the two Brothers*;† so that it must necessarily have been taken out of the packet. Possibly they have no mind that it should be dispersed abroad. I will send it him again the first opportunity. Rutter is

^{*} The King.

† Mr. Pelham and the Duke of Newcastle.

now out of town; the moment he comes, I will deliver Mr. Slingelandt's* message to him.

We say here, that it is quite over with the two Bentincks. Is it so? Say nothing for or against them, in your public despatches, but impartially relate matters of fact concerning them; for they are yet well *here*.

Adieu. Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, March 9, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I do not absolutely admit of all the reasonings of your last; for though I agree that Lord Holderness will from his relation to, and connexion with, the Gref-fier, have the best informations, yet I think he will put them very ill together, and with good materials make but scurvy letters; moreover, you may depend upon it, that he will only write what that Cabal would have him write, so that his accounts will be partial; whereas yours, as far as they go, will be fair, and give the whole. I cannot see neither why the utmost of your hopes should go no farther than the additional 300*l.* a-year, nor why you should not in time be *Monsieur L'Envoyé*, somewhere or other. Many have enjoyed, and some do enjoy, that character who in every respect deserve it less. When I see you we will talk these matters over more fully than we can write upon them. Lord Holderness has not yet kissed the King's hand, and of course will not go soon:

* Son of the late Pensionary.

therefore I do not expect to see you till the end of July or August. Upon my soul I long to see you for two reasons, which I have not for longing to see many people; they are, that I love you, and that I know you love me. I shall keep a little room for you at Blackheath, where I will refresh you with the best ananas* and melons in England.

Pray tell Monsieur Slingelandt that I have spoken to Rutter about the horse in question; and the better to know whether he was gentle enough for him, I asked him whether he was enough so for me; to which Rutter could not answer in the affirmative, so that I bid him not to send him. I take it for granted that Monsieur Slingelandt, who is a civil quiet gentleman as well as myself, chooses, as I do, a horse like Père Canaye's *qualem me decet esse mansuetum*,† which serene kind of beast is still more necessary in Holland, in the midst of canals, and wind-mills, than here.

Kreuningen's son, he writes me word, is coming to England, which I am sorry for upon account of Trevor,‡ whom it embarrasses extremely. It does not embarrass me, because I am resolved to be totally ignorant of all that has passed, and to invite him to dinner, as if nothing had happened. But Trevor cannot plead that ignorance, and Hop, I believe, will not receive him, so that I fancy his stay will not be long here. I should think that Russia would be the

* The word "pine-apple" had not yet, it appears, come into common use.

† An allusion to the *Conversation du Maréchal d'Hoquincourt avec le Père Canaye*, by St. Evremond.

‡ Robert Trevor, who had some years before been Envoy to Holland.

best, as it is the remotest, place for him, and possibly Comte Golofkin could get him into that service. Kreuningen *le Père* tells me that he has some thoughts of coming here himself next summer; I should be glad of it for my own sake, but sorry for his; complaisance for singular characters being by no means the natural turn of this country. His oddnesses would be indulged by few, but laughed at by many; so that I think he would pass his time ill here, which would mortify him. I am now three letters in his debt, which I will pay off as soon as I can; but I am so hurried and unsettled at present, being to remove to my new house this day se'nnight, that I have hardly time to write, or table to write upon.

It is said here, that our Ministers are altogether by the ears, and I believe that there is some degree of truth in the report. There is certainly no love lost between the *two Graces*. Lord Sandwich holds with, or rather governs, his Grace of Bedford; Fox is mutinous, and all the parts of the Ministerial machine disjoined. What order will at last spring out of this confusion, I neither know nor care. The new discipline which is to be established in both Fleet and Army by Act of Parliament,* has caused great debates and long sittings in the House of Commons, has given great dissatisfaction to those two bodies of men, and great alarm to everybody else. This measure is thought to be His Royal Highness, the Duke's; which has added so much to his former unpopularity, that the most scandalous libels imaginable are published every day upon the subject.

* This was a proposal for making all half-pay officers subject to martial law. It was carried as to the military, but not as to the naval service.

Bentinck may possibly have still some remaining credit, at your Court, but I am sure not very much power; for I know his turn well enough to know, that if he had much power he would not suffer the Pensionary to be tolerably received there, much less consulted.

I forgot to tell you before, that I cannot for my soul explain the riddle which you sent me sometime ago. The A. E. I. are to me impenetrable. Pray send me the solution. *Bon soir, mon ami.*

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 151.)

à Londres, ce 12 Mars, V. S. 1749.

J'AI reçu, Madame, la traduction de l'Anti-Lucrèce que vous avez eu la bonté de m'envoyer. Monsieur l'Abbé de la Ville, avec sa politesse ordinaire, l'a accompagnée d'une lettre très-obligeante. Nous étions à la fois amis et ennemis à la Haye, et il n'a pas tenu à nous que la paix ne se soit faite il y a quatre ans; son souvenir m'a flatté, car je l'estime beaucoup. Je trouve la traduction très-bonne; les beautés de l'original y sont aussi bien rendues que la prose le permet; mais un beau poëme perd nécessairement beaucoup à être traduit, même en vers. Je ne puis pas m'empêcher de regretter, qu'un des plus beaux morceaux de l'original, qui selon moi est le sixième livre, tienne à une philosophie si fausse et si pitoyable que celles des automates de Monsieur Descartes, qui certainement ne l'a pas crue lui-même.

Monsieur de Mirepoix viendra-t-il ici, ou se sera-t-il rebuté de certains incidens assez déplacés à mon avis? Je n'ai pas l'honneur de le connoître personnellement, mais ce que tout le monde dit de lui me fait souhaiter qu'il vienne. Madame de Mirepoix est bien aimable; j'ai eu l'honneur de la connoître à Paris; si je pouvois leur être bon à quelque chose ici, j'en serois charmé, et je m'acquitterois de mon mieux des commissions dont ils voudroient bien me charger. Ayez la bonté, Madame, de me procurer, si vous le pouvez, l'emploi de leur commissionnaire.

Je ferai tous mes efforts pour obtenir de Milord Crawford,* ce que souhaite Monsieur votre beau-frère; mais j'avoue que je doute un peu si je réussirai, car j'ai demandé la même chose il y a quelque tems à un autre de nos officiers, qui me l'a refusé tout net; disant qu'il ne savoit pas s'il étoit en droit de le faire, et qu'il pourroit peut-être lui-même donner quelque jour des mémoires de la dernière guerre: enfin, l'Anglois n'est pas naturellement communicatif.

Je suis à présent dans une situation ridiculement violente; j'entre en deux jours dans ma nouvelle maison, qui n'est pas encore à demi meublée, quoique celle où je suis soit tout-à-fait démeublée. Je ne vis que des aumônes de mes amis, et j'écris cette lettre, faute de table, sur un livre sur mes genoux. Je la finis pourtant pour l'amour de vous, mais ce n'est pas pour me tirer d'une attitude gênante, à laquelle on ne pense pas quand on s'entretient avec vous.

* John Lindsay, eighteenth Earl of Crawford, a distinguished general officer. He died in December, 1749.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, March 31, O. S. 1749.

Hôtel Chesterfield.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I SHOWED your letter to Hop, to whom it gave great satisfaction, and who thinks himself much obliged to you for the part which you take in his affairs. He was uneasy before, and is not quite easy yet, for he fears that if the Bentinck party prevails, they will send some dependent of their own here in his stead, either to mark out their credit, or to carry on their secret; and he has taken such a fancy to this country, that I do not believe he would change his destination here for any other in the world. He refused the embassy to Paris, which he was even pressed to accept.

I can tell you nothing, with any degree of certainty, of the squabbles among our Ministers. That there are some, is undoubtedly true; but then, in the reports, they are either magnified or lessened, according to the wishes or the interests of the reporters. Their two Graces are evidently very ill together, which I long ago knew, and said, could not fail. Mr. Pelham is cordially well with neither of them, though affectedly well with his brother. The Duke of Bedford, governed in general, but not in every particular, by Lord Sandwich, is pretty strong, *moyennant* the Gower family and others whom he brings into Parliament. He likewise gains ground with the Duke of Cumberland, who is, in truth, Minister as well as General, of which you will easily imagine his Grace of Newcastle is horribly jealous.

These are, I believe, pretty near the outlines of the present Ministerial piece. Mr. Pelham, who really means well, has the least power, and possibly for that very reason.

But, upon the whole, *que le chien mange le loup, ou le loup le chien*, I am got into my new house, from whence I shall be a most unconcerned spectator of those silly scenes. I have yet finished nothing but my *boudoir* and my library: the former is the gayest and most cheerful room in England, the latter the best. My garden is now turfed, planted, and sown, and will in two months more make a scene of verdure and flowers not common in London.

Anderson has restored the Rubens perfectly well, by taking off that d—— varnish with which it was loaded, and fetching out the original painting. The *connoisseurs* have sat upon it, and, what is extraordinary, are unanimous in declaring it one of the best in England. Many have guessed it at 800*l.*, none less than 500*l.* *Je les laisse dire, et je ne dis rien.*

I do not care for the Teniers you mention, both my picture-rooms being completely filled—the great one with capital pictures, the cabinet with *bijoux*. So that I will buy no more, till I happen to meet with some very capital ones of some of the most eminent old Italian masters, such as Raphael, Guido, Corregio, &c., and in that case I would make an effort.

I will look out for a horse fit for Mr. Slingelandt, of which I think I am a better judge than a better horseman. You may tell him I shall not much regard the beauty of it, but the intrinsic merit. I desire he should be safe, for I love him, both upon his own account and his father's.

I am glad to hear for his own sake that young Kreuningen does not come here, where I find he would have been in general very ill. Hop was determined not to receive him, and Trevor not to present him anywhere.

I agree with you that my Baron, far from travelling into other countries, will never more see his own, or put on a coat. He will think that he has escaped infection so providentially now, that I am apt to think he will endeavour to trust Providence no more.

Yours, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, April 4, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

SINCE my last to you, I have received your two letters of the 8th and 11th, N. S., together with the pamphlet in Dutch, which you sent me by General Elliot,* who delivered it to me very safe. It has made me rub up my almost forgotten Dutch, and I think I understand the meaning of it perfectly. It is extremely well written, and I dare say the facts are all as true, as the reasonings upon them are just. It coincides with, and confirms, all the notions I had formed of the present state of affairs in the Republic. I should be obliged to you if you would inform me, who is either the real, or supposed, author of it. Whoever he is, he is well informed. I am very much obliged to you for sending it to me. I have laid it

* A Lieutenant-General in the Dutch service.

by carefully, with my own predictions of general bankruptcy and confusion, which I fear a little time more will accomplish.

General Elliot *est un dégourdi, et du bon ton*. I have not seen any Englishman more degenerated by being abroad than he is. I met him at Hop's before I knew who he was, and I was astonished to find a man who spoke English so well, behave himself so well.

I differ with you in opinion about the King of Prussia's two very different letters to the two poets, for I am persuaded that they are both genuine. They are in character, seeking at once to please and to deceive. Should the two poets happen to compare notes, such is human vanity, and still more such is poetical vanity, that each would be convinced that the other was the dupe, and himself his Majesty's most favoured poet. *S'il fait bon battre les glorieux, il fait aussi bon les tromper*. In the first case they do not complain; in the second they do not even see.

We do not comprehend here any more than you do in Holland why Lord Holderness has not yet kissed the King's hand, though he talks of setting out from hence in a month. Some of his friends here are uneasy at his undertaking, in this critical situation, a commission to which they think he would be unequal in any, and have, I know, tried to dissuade him from it. This is certain at least, that, considering his relations and connections in Holland, he will always be looked upon as a party in all their domestic factions and cabals: a light in which a Foreign Minister, to serve his own country well, should never appear, however deeply engaged privately. Moreover, he

will be involved in the disgrace of the Bentincks, which, notwithstanding their present favour, I will venture to prophesy is not very remote. If what I have heard be true, her Royal Highness *la leur garde bonne, quelque mine, qu'elle faise à présent.*

Yours, &c.

TO CAPTAIN IRWINE* (AT PARIS).

(Works, vol. iv. p. 349.)

London, April 4, O. S. 1749.

SIR,

I SEND you the letter of recommendation to Mr. Villettes, which you desired, by yours to Mr Grevenkop; but I fear that he will be gone from Turin before you arrive there. But in that case you will find a young academician and his governor there, who will be very glad to do you any service, and to whom I have sent orders upon that subject. They will take the Carnival at Venice, in their way, where you will likewise probably meet them, for I take it for granted that you will contrive to see that uncommon ceremony. It is worth your while. There will be a much greater ceremony next Christmas at Rome, which, at all events, I think you ought to see: that is, the grand Jubilee, which is celebrated but once in fifty years.

* Captain Irwine afterwards became Sir John Irwine, a Lieutenant-General, and a Knight of the Bath. "He began the world as page of honour to Lionel, Duke of Dorset, by whose interest he was pushed forward in the army, and obtained a regiment. He afterwards married, and lived in a style of vain extravagance, which ended by involving him in pecuniary difficulties." (Note to Madame du Deffand's Letters, vol. i. p. 240.) Madame du Deffand says of him: "Il me parait comme un assez bon homme."

So that, young as you are, if you do not see it then, you probably never will; and, upon so extraordinary an occasion, I cannot suppose that your father will refuse to prolong your leave of absence. For my own part, I think it so well worth seeing, that I send my young traveller there, though it very much shortens the stay which I originally intended that he should make at the Academy at Turin. I return you my sincere thanks for the favour of your letter, with the inclosed speech of Monsieur de Richelieu, which is perfectly in character, and, I dare say, all his own!

Any instance of your friendship and remembrance will always be agreeable to one, who is, with those sentiments of esteem with which I am,

Yours, &c.

TO THE REV. DR. MADDEN.

(Works, vol. iv. Appendix, p. 99.)

London, April 15, 1749.

SIR,

You are, I am sure, too well persuaded of my sincere regard and friendship for you, to impute my late silence to negligence or forgetfulness; but two concurrent causes have hindered me from acknowledging your two last letters: the one was the ill state of my health; the other was the unsettled state of my person, in my migration from my old house to my new one, where I have hardly yet got pen, ink, paper, and a table. This latter has, I believe, been attested to you by your son, who saw me unfurnished in my old house, and since unsettled in my new one. I have

(as I told him that I would) executed your orders with regard to my booksellers. I have told them, more fully than I can tell you, my thoughts of the work, and have raised their impatience for some of the copies, for which they will treat with your printer. How they will sell (considering the whimsical and uncertain decision of the public in those matters) I do not know; but how they ought to sell, if the public judges right, I well know—for I never saw more wit, fancy, and imagination, upon any one single subject. Every one of your alterations are, in my opinion, for the better, excepting those which you say you have made in my favour, and in which I fear the public will too justly differ from you. Your partiality to me had carried you but too far before. I congratulate both you and Ireland most heartily, upon the increasing fruits of your labours for the public good; for I am informed from all hands, that a spirit of industry diffuses itself through all Ireland; the linen manufacture gains ground daily in the south and south-west, and new manufactures arise in different parts of the kingdom. All which, I will venture to say, is originally owing to your judicious and indefatigable endeavours for the good of your country. You know the nature of mankind in general, and of our countrymen in particular (for I still think and call myself an Irishman), well enough to know, that the invitation by premiums would be much more effectual than laws, or remote considerations of general public good, upon which few people reason well enough to be convinced that their own solid private interest essentially depends. The Dublin Society, and, in particular, my good friends the Bishop of Meath and

Prior, have seconded you very well; and it is not saying too much of them to say, that they deserve better of Ireland than any one other set of men in it; I will not even except the Parliament. The premiums for flax-seed raised, instead of the former iniquitous distribution of it, have, I am told and believe, had very good consequences for the linen manufacture; and, as there was an infamous job got the better of, I am in hopes that all jobs will be hindered from creeping into that excellent establishment of the Protestant Charter Schools, which, if it be kept pure but for some years, will have a prodigious effect as to the religious and political state of Ireland; but if once Protestant children slip into those schools, as was attempted in my time, the end of their institution ceases. I hope the University of Dublin, that enjoys a share of your premiums, deserves them. Our two Universities, at least, will do it no hurt, unless by their examples, for I cannot believe that their present reputations will invite people in Ireland to send their sons there. The one (Cambridge) is sunk into the lowest obscurity; and the existence of Oxford would not be known, if it were not for the treasonable spirit publicly avowed, and often exerted there. The University of Dublin has this great advantage over ours: it is one compact body, under the eye and authority of one head, who, if he is a good one, can enforce order and discipline, and establish the public exercises as he thinks proper; among which the purity and elegance of the English language ought to be particularly attended to, for there you are apt to fail in Ireland. But I trouble you too long upon subjects of which you are a much better judge than I am,

and upon the spot to observe. My thoughts are only *Quæ censet amicus*, and I give them you, *Ut si cæcus iter monstrare velit*. My wishes for the prosperity of your country are as warm and as sincere as the sentiments of regard, esteem, and friendship, with which I am

Yours, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, April 25, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM now three letters in your debt, which I would have paid more punctually, if I had any tolerable current species to have paid you in : but I have nothing but farthings to offer, and most of them, too, counterfeit ; for being, thank God, no longer concerned in the coinage, I cannot answer for the weight of the coin. I hear, as everybody does, more lies than truth, and am not in a situation of knowing which is which. It is said, for example, that our great men are reconciled, and I believe that they say so themselves ; but I believe at the same time *que le diable n'y perd rien*. One *Grace** is too jealous not to suspect his best friend, and the other *Grace*† too obstinate to forgive or forget the least injury. Lord Sandwich, who governs the latter, and detests the former, who in return abhors him, takes care to keep this fire alive, so that he may blow it into a flame whenever it may serve his purpose to do so ; and I am much mistaken, if he does not make it blaze often. The Prince

* Newcastle.

† Bedford.

of Wales gains strength in Parliament in proportion as the King grows older; and Mr. Pelham loses ground there from the public conviction that he has but little power, which indeed I believe is true; the Army being entirely in the Duke of Cumberland, the Navy in Lord Sandwich, and the whole Church in the Duke of Newcastle. All other employments are scrambled for; and sometimes one Minister, and sometimes another, gets one. This situation of things little enables Mr. Pelham to satisfy the hungry and greedy rascals of the House of Commons, and consequently creates schisms and subdivisions in the Court Party. The next Session will produce events.

However disjointedly business may go on, pleasures, I can assure you, go roundly. To-morrow there is to be, at Ranelagh Garden, a masquerade in the Venetian manner.* It is to begin at three o'clock in the afternoon; the several *loges* are to be shops for toys, *limonades*, *glaces*, and other *rafraichissemens*. The next day come the fire-works, at which hundreds of people will certainly lose their lives or their limbs, from the tumbling of scaffolds, the fall of rockets, and other accidents inseparable from such crowds. In order to repair this loss to society, there will be a subscription masquerade on the Monday following, which, upon calculation, it is thought, will be the occasion of getting about the same number of people as were destroyed at the fire-works!

I hear nothing yet of Lord Holderness going to Holland, and therefore do not ask you when I may hope to see you here; for I suppose that his arrival

* See a full description of this masquerade in Horace Walpole's Letters to Mann, May 3, 1749.

must be previous to your departure: moreover, I am told that you are so busy in moving from one house to another, that you could not yet move from one country to another. Where is your new dwelling at the Hague?

I am glad to hear that Madame de Berkenroodt goes Ambadress* to Paris; she will pass her time well there, and she deserves it. Pray make her my compliments of congratulation, and tell her that I am strongly tempted to pay my respects to her at Paris myself; but that, if I cannot, I will at least do it by proxy this winter twelvemonth, and send her an Ambassador about forty years younger, and consequently forty times better than myself. My boy will then be at Paris; he is now at Venice, goes to Turin till November, and then to Rome till the October following, when I shall emancipate him at Paris. I hear so well of him from all quarters, that I think he will do. *Adieu; portez vous bien, et aimez moi toujours.*

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 155.)

à Londres, ce 1 Mai, V. S. 1749.

J'AI actuellement devant mes yeux, Madame, trois de vos lettres, dont je n'ai pas encore accusé une seule. Vous jugez bien que j'en rougis, cela est vrai; mais vous jugez bien en même tems que j'avois des raisons valables. Cela est bien vrai aussi; mais je ne

* From Holland.

vous les détaillerai point, pour ne vous ennuyer que le moins qu'il me sera possible.

Venons à présent au fait, c'est-à-dire, aux ordres dont vous m'avez chargé, auxquels je me fais gloire, et un véritable plaisir, d'obéir. J'ai arrêté donc, pour Madame de Mirepoix, la maisonnette, plutôt que la maison, qu'a eu Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Venise l'année passée, à un mille d'ici. Le payment en commencera la semaine prochaine, qui est de trois guinées par semaine. Le propriétaire n'a pas voulu attendre plus long-tems, vû que c'est à présent la saison que ces petites maisons se louent ordinairement pour les six mois d'été. Au reste, que Madame de Mirepoix ne s'attende pas à des chambres spacieuses, bien meublées, à des sofas, et à des chaises commodes ; tout cela n'est pas le ton de nos petites maisons ; mais pour la simple propreté, elle y est, et voilà tout.

Quant au pauvre Adolphati, je vous dirai très-naturellement, que je pourrois tout aussitôt débiter cinquante mille de ses *trios* que cinquante : on est excédé, accablé, assommé, ici de musique ; on est tout-à-fait rebuté du grand nombre de souscriptions qu'on sollicite pour des cantates, des sonates, et tout ce qu'il vous plaira, en faveur de compositeurs très-habiles, établis ici depuis quelque tems, et qui s'y sont fait même quelques amis, au lieu que notre Adolphati est absolument inconnu ici, et en Italie. Entre nous soit dit, ceux qui ont entendu sa musique ici ne l'ont nullement goûtée. J'ai prié quelques bons connoisseurs pour l'entendre chez moi, où il a joué de ses compositions, qu'on a trouvées bien ennuyeuses. Je suis bien fâché de ne pouvoir pas lui faire plaisir à cet égard, parcequ'il me paroît bon enfant, et encore plus par-

ce que vous vous y intéressez ; mais en vérité la chose est impossible, et je suis persuadé que Madame de Richmond vous en dira autant.

Monsieur le Marquis de Centurioni et moi, nous nous sommes cherchés inutilement l'un l'autre jusqu'ici, nous croisant toujours. Je m'impatiente de le voir, indépendamment de tout le mérite qu'il peut avoir, parcequ'il me vient de vous, qu'il vous connoit, par conséquent qu'il vous honore, et qu'il me parlera beaucoup de vous.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, May 4, O.S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THE stroke is struck, I find at last ;* and, if I am not much mistaken, he who struck it will have reason to repent it before it be very long. It is true, that it marks out his power ; but, at the same time, it makes him the mark of resentment and jealousy, especially of the jealousy of *one person*, who will not bear even the appearance of a rival. Moreover, he cannot carry

* This passage refers to the sudden dismissal from his office of the Pensionary Gilles. Mr. Dayrolles writes upon it as follows : "The Pensionary's fall, and the manner in which he was obliged to resign his post, seems to affect prodigiously the old Republican party, and, though they don't dare speak out, yet one may easily see by the gloominess of their countenances how it works upon them. It appears as if before this event they had never conceived a true notion of the Prince of Orange's power, which they now find to be as unlimited almost as that of the King of France. And after all I don't see any harm in its being so, and I dare say that the Stadtholder with an absolute power will be able to retrieve the affairs of this country much sooner than if his hands were tied up like those of his predecessors."—To Lord Chesterfield, May 23, N.S. 1749. From the original MS.

on the machine himself, he has neither temper nor knowledge sufficient for it. He must call for help, and then he will be in the case of the Horse, who called the Man to his assistance. Comte Groensfeldt will, in my opinion, be that man, who will soon get astride upon that Horse. He is industrious, temperate, and able; and can work under, still better than above, ground. If he is brought into the *Corps des Nobles*, as they say he is to be, it will be, considering all circumstances, such a glaring and decided proof of his personal favour, that everybody will look up to him; and the public opinion of his power will contribute to increase it. This scramble for power, in your little Court, and in your ruined Republic, puts me in mind of Lord Rochester's image of contending Ministers. He compares them to schoolboys, who, at the hazard of their necks, climb for crabs, which, if they were upon the ground, solid pigs would disdain. How the Pensionary could be ignorant of the favour intended him, as it is reported that he was when he received the message, is what I cannot conceive; for I knew it above a month ago. The manner in which he took it, and spoke the next day in the Assembly, was wise and skilful; but his accepting the pension,* for it is merely a pension, since he is excluded all Assemblies, is dirty, and vilifies him. If I had been he, I would sooner have lived all my life, as Van Beuningen did, by way of experiment, one year, upon six and thirty florins. Though his diet would have been but low, his character would have been high.

I have seen Laurenzi, who, I believe, must observe

* "Of 8,000 florins, about 780*l*."—Note by Mr. Dayrolles.

that diet too, unless he can get an increase of his appointments, which he is labouring for; but I much doubt of his success. He confirms the accounts I had had before from many, of *la délicatesse et le bon goût de votre table*. Marquis d'Havrincourt was worthy of it, excelling as he does, not only in the theory, but in the practical part, of the table. He dined with me once or twice, and I think I never saw a more vigorous performer. He is a very pretty man, and has *l'extrêmement bon ton de la parfaitement bonne compagnie*, which is at present the short but comprehensive *éloge d'un honnête homme*.

I am in debt, at least three, if not four, letters to my Baron, who is a most excellent correspondent. I will pay him soon in much better coin than my own letters; for I shall send him by the first opportunity a good cargo of good books and pamphlets. Pray, make him my compliments, and tell him that I will write to him soon.

I hear nothing yet of Lord Holderness's going to Holland.

Yours most faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 88.)

London, May 9, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

THE person who will give you this letter, is the nephew of Monsieur Boissier, a rich, and, for all that, a very honest merchant of the city, from whom I have received many civilities. He is a Swiss, and probably you know him by name and reputation. This nephew is desirous to get into the service of the Republic; and I wish that you could be useful to him in that view.

I do not mean, nor does he, that you can procure him a commission; but we think that you may be able to point out to him *le moyen d'y parvenir*, whatever that may be. If it be solicitation, you will tell him where to address it; if a private tip, you will tell him where to apply it. In short, I am sure that, from the part I take in him upon his uncle's account, you will do him what service you can.

By the way, do not apprehend from this, that I shall plague you often with recommendations of this kind, for I have refused them to several people, and shall continue to do so to nine in ten. They desire impertinent, unreasonable, or impossible things; and then desire that I will recommend them to you, because they are sure that I have great interest with you. My answer to which is, that I verily believe I have interest with you, and for that very reason will not recommend to you an impertinent or an impossible thing.

I am now assured that Lord Holderness, though he has not yet kissed the King's hand, will go in three weeks at farthest: so that in six I hope to see you here. I need not tell you how glad I shall be of it. We have not been so long asunder since we loved one another; as we still, I believe, do. Adieu!

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed.)

London, May 16, O.S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

LORD HOLDERNESSE sets out for the Hague the beginning of next week at farthest, so that I hope to see you here before it is long. However, do not press importunately for leave to return, because that would imply

that a superior Minister at the Hague rendered you unnecessary there, which I would not have thought here. I mention this here upon account of a conversation that passed lately between Mr. Pelham and myself concerning you. He asked me, whether I thought you would care to remain at the Hague after the arrival of Lord Holderness? Though I guessed immediately the meaning of that question, I seemed not to do it, and asked him whether they had a mind to employ you anywhere else. He answered, no; but that he did not know whether you would care to act a subordinate part under Lord Holderness. I told him that I was persuaded you would make no difficulty of that, for that you took your post in those very circumstances under Lord Sandwich. "Why then," said he, "he must e'en stay, and it is only an unnecessary expense to the Government." I answered, that I did not look upon the expense of a Resident at the Hague as an unnecessary one by any means—that there had almost always been one, and that I believed that a Resident was, at least, as necessary with Lord Holderness as with any other Minister that had ever been there. This he acknowledged, and added, that there were certainly no thoughts of removing you, unless of your own desire. His object, I know, was public economy, which, as he cannot practise where he pleases, he wants to do where he can. But, however, after what passed between us, I will answer for it that he will do you no harm. On the other hand, I know that the Duke of Newcastle recommended you strongly the other day to Lord Holderness, and advised him to have the utmost confidence in you; so that you seem to be very safe. But,

however, I would not have your post, especially by your own admission, pass for an absolute sinecure, and an unnecessary expense to the Government; therefore I would advise you, when you ask leave to come here for two or three months, on account of your own private affairs, to say that the several details of your post are not so many at this time of the year, and will not be so teasing to the Minister upon whom they will devolve by your absence. Lord Holderness, I must acquaint you, has the pride that all little minds have: flatter that, and you may do what you will with him. Far from a jealousy of business, I think he will be very willing that you should do it all, if you please. If I were you, I would tell him, that now he was at the Hague, all the important business would doubtless be carried on by him only, and that I looked upon myself as no longer concerned in it;—that I had, therefore, nothing now to write but the common occurrences of the Hague, but that I would constantly show his Lordship my letters, if he would give himself the trouble to read them. This offer his laziness and pleasures will never let him accept; but it will give him a confidence in you, and then you will continue to write the best accounts you can get; and, without a compliment to you, I will venture to say that your letters will be the letters of business from the Hague, excepting those particular ones which the Greffier may, upon some important and secret points, dictate to Lord Holderness. We will talk more fully upon this subject when I see you.

It is reported here that Grovestein is disgraced. Is that true? I should not wonder at it. I am called away of a sudden.

Yours faithfully.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 9, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

As I find, by your last, that your stay in Holland will now be but short, my letters will be so too. We can talk more fully as well as more freely than we can write. You have set out well with our new Minister,* and I believe will go on so. He is one of those people, whom a man of sense will not quarrel with, but humour; *cela ne coûte rien*.

Hop showed me yesterday the print of your fireworks; they seem to be so fine and so expensive, that, considering the present necessitous condition of the Republic, they put me in mind of a good *fanfaron* motto upon a French standard, *Peream, modo luceam*. I should have told you first, that the device was a bursting grenado.

My boy, who was going to the Carnival at Venice, was suddenly seized with a violent inflammation upon his lungs, at a miserable post-house, two posts beyond Laybach, in Carniole, where he remained in great danger for twelve days. He is now recovering at Laybach, and, by this time, I hope, out of all danger. However, as soon as the heats are over, that is, at the latter end of September, I intend to send him to Naples, the best place in the world for tender lungs, and his are so yet. I shall send him a letter of recommendation to Marquis Fogliani, who is the only person I know there; and, as there is no Neapolitan Minister here, that will be the only letter I can give

* Lord Holderness.

him. Could you easily get a letter or two for him from Monsieur Finochetti? If you can, you may bring them with you here; and I can send them to him time enough from hence. You will remember to call him my nephew. I am told, that the Princess Strongoli and General Mahoni's are the two best houses there.

The Parliament is to be prorogued next Tuesday, when the Ministers will have six months' leisure to quarrel, and patch up, and quarrel again. Garrick and the Violetti will likewise, about the same time, have an opportunity of doing the same thing, for they are to be married next week.* They are, at present, desperately in love with each other. Lady Burlington was at first outrageous, but upon cooler reflection upon what the Violetti, if provoked, might say or rather invent, she consented to the match, and superintends the writings. *Adieu; je languis de vous voir.*

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 159.)

à Londres, ce 13 Juin, V. S. 1749.

C'EST que le ton grondeur vous va au mieux, Madame, et vous l'apprêtez d'une façon que vous lui donnez un goût flatteur. De tels reproches donnent l'exclusion à l'indifférence, et on est charmé de les recevoir, quand on est bien sûr de ne les avoir pas mérités; et je suis dans ce cas. Moi! aller à Aix-la-Chapelle sans vous faire ma cour à Paris, ou en allant, ou en

* See Horace Walpole's Letter to Mann of June 25, 1749.

revenant ! c'est en vérité un soupçon aussi injurieux à mon goût qu'à mes sentimens. Je pourrois peut-être me servir du prétexte d'aller à Aix-la-Chapelle, pour satisfaire à mon envie d'aller à Paris, mais je n'ai garde d'en faire ou l'unique, ou le véritable, objet d'un trajet de mer. Non, Madame, si je fais un pèlerinage, ce sera pour faire mes dévotions dans la rue de Verneuil ou à Bagatelle, et y renouveler les vœux d'une amitié respectueuse et sincère ; mais pour cette année, il m'est impossible de sortir d'Angleterre. Un engagement tendre, et plusieurs affaires sérieuses m'y retiennent ; l'engagement tendre est celui de ma nouvelle maison, dont je n'ai pas tout-à-fait joui encore, et c'est un grand item en fait de tendresse. Elle me refuse ses dernières faveurs, jusqu'à ce que je l'aie entièrement nippée ; ce qui ne sera fait que vers l'hiver, car mes deux plus belles pièces ne sont rien moins que finies. Mes engagements nécessaires sont des arrangemens de famille,* où par conséquent la chicane entre pour quelque chose, et les délais pour beaucoup.

Votre Marquis de Centurioni a réellement de l'esprit, et de l'acquis, mais quand même il n'en auroit point eu, votre recommandation seule les lui auroit bien valu auprès de moi. Vous le reverrez bientôt, puisqu'il part d'ici cette semaine : le seul défaut que je lui trouve, c'est qu'il veut absolument être François et petit-maître ; et ne l'est pas qui veut. Le petit-maître François a des graces, avec tous ses défauts, et il plait en dépit de la raison, qui sûrement n'autorise point sa conduite ; mais cette étourderie brillante, cette pétulance aimable, se trouvent très déplacées,

* The affairs resulting from his brother's death and testamentary dispositions.

quand un Italien, un Allemand, ou un Anglois veut s'en parer : il n'y a que l'original qui plait, toutes les traductions en sont pitoyables.

A propos de traductions, je tâche de faire actuellement traduire en Italien votre futur élève, votre enfant adoptif : il est en Italie, et il doit passer son hiver à Rome. J'ai une grace à vous demander sur son sujet, c'est de vouloir bien le recommander à Monsieur le Duc de Nivernois votre Ambassadeur ; j'aurai l'honneur de lui écrire moi-même, pour satisfaire au respect et à l'estime que je lui dois : cela n'est que pour les formes ; mais c'est de votre recommandation que j'attends tout le solide. Je conçois bien que Monsieur de Nivernois, par la politesse qui lui est si naturelle, le prendroit à diner ou à souper deux ou trois fois pendant son séjour à Rome, et voila où finissent les recommandations ordinaires, mais ce n'est pas là mon fait : et je souhaiterois que Monsieur de Nivernois en fit son galopin, qu'il le regardât comme un petit François de sa suite, et qu'il fût si domestique dans son antichambre, qu'il eût, moyennant cela, de tems en tems des occasions d'étudier le caractère d'honnête homme, sur le meilleur modèle que je connoisse. Ce bonheur ne peut lui arriver que par votre moyen ; et permettez moi de vous dire que vous êtes intéressée à le lui procurer. Plus il sera formé, avant que de vous appartenir en propre, moins il vous sera à charge ; et quelques leçons à l'hôtel de Nivernois vous épargneront bien de la peine après. Je compte qu'il sera à Rome vers le milieu de Décembre ; et dans une année, ou une année et demie après, il sera à Paris ; ou pour mieux dire, cinq ou six heures du jour chez vous, je ne lui demande pas d'autre Paris que cela. J'y serai

peut-être son avant-coureur, au moins je le souhaite, et c'est le seul souhait qui me reste. L'âge éteint tous les souhaits de l'amour; la raison et l'expérience ceux de l'ambition; ceux de l'amitié vous sont bien dus, Madame, et je vous les adresse très véritablement.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 23, O. S. 1749.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE this instant received your letter of the 27th N. S, which I am very little able to answer, having been ill of a fever ever since Sunday last, and this being the first day that I have been allowed to go out of my bedchamber. I am very weak, partly from the distemper itself, and partly from being starved. On Monday, I shall go to Blackheath for a week, which I hope will restore me. But I would not delay making you easier than you seem to be at present, about the event of your letter to the Duke of Newcastle. I happened to meet him last Saturday at Boden's country-house, where he told me that Stone had that morning delivered him a letter from you, asking leave to come here for a very short time. I told him that I supposed you would obtain it; to which he answered: Most undoubtedly. So that your having yet had no answer to it, I am convinced, proceeds only from his Grace's usual hurry and negligence. I believe he has at present business enough upon his hands; for in order to strengthen himself against the Dukes of Cumberland and Bedford, and

Lord Sandwich, he has been negotiating with Lord Granville, who in consequence of that negotiation had the Garter given to him yesterday. He has refused the Lieutenancy of Ireland, which was offered him about three weeks ago; but he wisely chose rather to remain upon the spot without a place, than to go to Ireland for one. His Grace will very soon find, that, instead of calling in an auxiliary, he has taken a master.

I thank you heartily for the letters you have procured the boy for Naples; he is now so well recovered that he is gone to Venice, where he will stay till the middle of September, and then proceed to Naples. My head will not allow me to write any more; it is my heart adds, that I am faithfully
Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 163.)

à Babiote, ce 8 Juillet, V. S. 1749.

Vous voulez donc absolument, Madame, que je vous croye solidement fâchée contre moi; je le veux bien, votre colère m'est trop glorieuse pour la refuser, et mon innocence fait que je n'y suis sensible que du bon côté. Une belle, qui manqueroit à un rendez-vous, où d'ailleurs elle auroit souhaité de se trouver, seroit bien fâchée si son amant ne l'étoit point. Il gronde, il s'emporte, elle se justifie, il s'apaise. Elle a prouvé sa bonne volonté, lui son empressement, et ils n'en sont que mieux après. Il en est de même dans l'amitié que dans l'amour, quoique d'ailleurs ces

sentimens ne se ressemblent guères. Je soutiens que nous sommes actuellement mieux ensemble que jamais, et je suis charmé que vous soyez contente des étoffes qu'à la fin vous avez reçues ; elles se sont fait trop longtems attendre : il y a un point d'attente qui pique, mais il y en a un autre qui lasse.

A propos du bagage de notre Ambassadeur,* je puis vous assurer que l'Ambassadeur même est très sensible à toutes vos politesses, dont il m'a entretenu une heure de suite.

Mon nom seul, sans doute, sera plus efficace que toutes vos recommandations auprès de Monsieur le Duc de Nivernois ! Cela est très-poli de votre part, mais Monsieur de Nivernois ne vous en auroit guères d'obligation : en tout cas, faites comme si cela n'étoit point, et recommandez-lui fortement votre élève, je vous en supplie, au mois de Novembre prochain, puisqu'il sera à Rome au commencement de Décembre. Plus il fréquentera Monsieur de Nivernois, moins vous en rougirez quand il sera sous vos soins à Paris. Il ne lui manque que les manières, car pour la lecture et le savoir, il en a à revendre. Au reste, ne croyez pas que c'est son arrivée à Paris qui décidera de la mienne ; au contraire, je ne voudrois pas pour chose au monde le voir avant qu'il eût été bien formé et poli à Paris, car si je le trouvois ou Allemand ou Italien, et il doit naturellement être un composé de ces deux, j'en prendrois du dégoût pour le reste de mes jours : ces deux nations, quoique par des raisons très-différentes, n'ayant pas l'honneur de me plaire infiniment.

Je reviens depuis quinze jours d'une fièvre chaude, dont j'ai pensé ne pas revenir du tout : c'est votre

* Lord Albemarle.

étoile, Madame, qui m'a sauvé, et qui n'a pas voulu que vous perdissiez encore un si fidèle serviteur. Procurez-moi, je vous en prie, pour quelque tems, la continuation de cette influence, car si vous le trouvez bon, je voudrois encore vivre dix ou douze ans, pour vous mieux prouver la constance de mon amitié. Je suis actuellement, pour me rétablir à une très petite maison, que j'ai à cinq petites milles de Londres, et que j'aurois appelé *Bagatelle*, si ce n'eût été par respect pour la vôtre ; mais que j'appelle *Babiole*, pour en marquer la subordination, et pour laisser à *Bagatelle* la préférence qui lui est due. *Babiole* est située dans un des parcs du Roi, à cent pas de la Tamise, où l'on voit tous les jours une cinquantaine de gros vaisseaux marchands, et quelques vaisseaux de guerre, qui vont et qui viennent : les promenades sont les plus belles du monde, il y fait toujours sec, et l'air y est extrêmement fin. Il y a cinq cents ans qu'il n'auroit presque rien coûté à quelque fée ou magicien de nos amis, de transporter dans un moment *Babiole* au bois de Boulogne, pour faire sa cour à *Bagatelle*, mais à présent on ne sait à qui s'adresser pour ces sortes de choses là ; il est vrai, comme l'on dit, que le siècle n'en est pas digne, la foi y manque. Au moins, sans mettre votre foi à de grandes épreuves, vous me croirez bien le plus zélé et le plus attaché de vos serviteurs.

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A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 169.)

à Londres, ce 7 Septembre, V. S. 1749.

C'EST que j'ai battu la campagne depuis plus d'un mois, comme un Juif, sans avoir de séjour fixe. Vous comprenez bien, Madame, ce que cela veut dire ; d'ailleurs, qu'aurois-je pu répondre à votre dernière, qui a pensé tourner ma tête ? Je n'en ai ma foi échappé que moyennant certaines réflexions assez humiliantes, que, malgré mon amour propre, j'ai fait sur moi-même, mais que je n'ai garde de vous communiquer. Si vous êtes réellement dans l'erreur, cette erreur m'est trop flatteuse pour que je tâche de vous en désabuser ; et si vous voulez seulement m'en faire accroire, vous le faites avec trop d'esprit, et trop d'agrémens, pour que je me prive du plaisir de me voir, pour un moment, dans le miroir trompeur que vous me présentez. Voila comme nous sommes faits, un moment d'illusion agréable nous charme, toute illusion que nous la sachions ; la réflexion nous désabuse après, mais elle n'empêche pas que nous ne nous prêtions avec la même facilité à une nouvelle, ou souvent à la même illusion, dès qu'elle se présente avec les graces et la séduction dont vous savez bien l'accompagner. Enfin il en est de l'esprit comme de tout le reste ; nous vivons dans une alternative perpétuelle de péché et de pénitence.

Milord Albemarle vous a dit, plutôt ce que je souhaitois faire, que ce que je pouvois faire, quand il vous a dit que j'aurois l'honneur de vous voir cette année à Paris. La volonté au moins y étoit, et il n'y a que la nécessité qui puisse jamais l'emporter sur la volonté ; mais cette nécessité s'y est trouvée, nécessité d'autant

plus désagréable qu'elle résulte d'une infinité de détails, et d'arrangemens domestiques, que je déteste, et auxquels je ne suis guères propre. A propos de notre Ambassadeur, en êtes vous contents chez vous? Pour votre beau paladin, et votre aimable petite paladine,* ils font à merveille ici. C'est un grand état, une belle dépense, leurs manières marquent bien leur naissance, et leur usage du grand monde; ils s'accommodent à tout, et jurent qu'ils sont charmés de tout; ils me permettent de les fréquenter, et j'en profite jusqu'à l'abus. Je cherche, et je trouve chez eux, les agrémens de la société, que je chercherois inutilement chez plusieurs de mes compatriotes.

J'ai reçu en dernier lieu une lettre du petit Centurion, que j'aime beaucoup; mais l'étourdi ne m'y a pas donné son adresse. Oserois-je vous prier, Madame, de vouloir bien lui faire tenir l'incluse? Il me dit qu'il m'a fait une tracasserie avec vous, en vous découvrant mon indiscretion au sujet de vos bras. Je conviens du fait; mais qui n'en auroit pas fait autant? L'indifférence est ordinairement la mère de la discrétion, de sorte que vous avez tout à craindre de ma part d'un sentiment contraire.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 173.)

à Londres, ce 28 Septembre, V.S. 1749.

JE suis bien-aise, Madame, de n'avoir appris la maladie de Mademoiselle votre fille qu'en même

* The Maréchal and Maréchale de Mirepoix, the French Ambassador and Ambadress in London.

tems avec sa convalescence. J'aurois pris part à vos alarmes, comme j'en prends actuellement à votre joie, et comme j'en prendrai éternellement à tout ce qui vous touche. Je conçois bien que votre sang et vos soins doivent nécessairement avoir formé une fille digne de vos plus tendres inquiétudes. Cette occasion lui en aura fait sentir toute l'étendue et la délicatesse, et vous vous serez réciproquement plus chères, l'une à l'autre, par le danger où vous avez été toutes deux d'une séparation, dont peut-être ni l'une ni l'autre n'avoit encore senti toute la rigueur. Nous ne connoissons jamais tout le prix d'un bien, que quand nous nous voyons au moment de le perdre. Puissiez vous long-tems, Madame, jouir d'un bien si cher que vous venez de sauver ! Je ne compte pas non plus pour rien la conservation de sa beauté : les dévots et les philosophes ont beau parler sentences contre la beauté, je soutiens qu'elle est un avantage réel, puisqu'elle orne, et qu'elle recommande même l'esprit le plus juste, et le mérite le plus solide ; je m'en rapporte à vous, vous devez bien savoir si j'ai raison ou non.

Je ne sais pas par quelle fatalité cela ne va pas si bien que je l'aurois cru, entre Milord Albemarle et vos gens. Je le trouve très-aimable, et poli ; il aime les plaisirs et la volupté, c'est là aussi le ton chez vous, et pourtant cela ne s'agence point. Notre Ambassadeur a un avantage sur le vôtre, il vous a trouvée à Paris, et j'ose assurer Monsieur de Mirepoix qu'il ne vous trouve rapas à Londres.

Votre garçon sera à Rome en deux mois, de façon que vous n'avez qu'à écrire à Monsieur de Nivernois aussitôt que vous n'aurez rien autre chose à faire ; mais ayez la bonté de le prévenir sur un article, qui

est, qu'il doit s'attendre à voir un jeune homme, qui n'a ni tournure ni manières, mais qui est encore incrusté de la crotte Angloise, épaissie même de celle de l'université de Leipsig. Il est si fort appliqué à ses études, qu'il ne s'est pas donné le tems, quand même il en auroit eu les occasions, de prendre l'air et les manières d'un honnête homme : j'espère que l'air de l'hôtel de Nivernois lui sera favorable.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 175.)

à Londres, ce 23 Octobre, V. S. 1749.

Vous défendez les gentillesses, Madame ; ayez donc la bonté de les définir, afin que je n'en dise pas sans y penser. J'ai insinué qu'il étoit possible que Mademoiselle votre fille pût être jolie, vous soutenez qu'elle ne l'est point. Voici une question de fait, et j'en veux la décision, mais le moyen, direz vous ? le voici, et je crois, ce qui n'arrive guères, que nous en serons tous deux contens. Je m'en rapporte à Mademoiselle elle-même ; sa bouche décidera en votre faveur, son cœur en la mienne. A vous, Madame, à cette heure. Je ne vous ai vu, dites-vous, que changée et déperie, et par conséquent je dois croire que vous avez toujours été fort désagréable. *Nego*, Madame, comme dit élégamment Thomas Diafoirus ;* je vous intende procès là dessus, et je vous laisserai même le choix de vos juges ; j'aurai le triomphe, et vous aurez le plaisir, de vous voir condamnée avec frais et dépens.

* In the *Malade Imaginaire* of Molière.

Je suis fâché que notre ami,* qui pourroit plaire s'il le vouloit, ne le veuille point ; j'ai su depuis long-tems son attachement pour la Sultane† à laquelle il sacrifie ses soirées, c'est-à-dire sa vie, à Paris ; mais j'espérois qu'il lui feroit ses sacrifices le matin : c'étoit au moins autrefois la belle heure des sacrifices.

Je ne vous dis rien, ni à Monsieur de Nevers non plus, au sujet des lettres que vous avez écrites à Monsieur de Nivernois en faveur de votre élève. Chez vous deux, les politesses et les amitiés coulent de source, on s'y attend toujours, on ne s'y trompe jamais, et elles paroissent si fort dans l'ordre, qu'il faut quelque réflexion pour vous en avoir de l'obligation. On ne sait presque pas gré à une bonne pendule pendant qu'elle va juste, et on n'y fait attention que quand elle manque, parcequ'alors on est surpris. Ce devroit pourtant être tout le contraire ; l'un est très difficile, et il n'y a rien au monde de si facile que l'autre.

Je voudrois bien que votre élève eût fini ses affaires en Italie, afin que j'en fusse quitte, et que je le visse dans des meilleures mains que les miennes ; car sachez que du moment qu'il arrive à Paris, je n'ai plus rien à faire avec lui, il vous appartiendra en propre, et vous me répondrez de ses manières, de sa politesse, et même de ses sentimens. Gentillesse à part, je sais que vous en pourrez faire tout ce que vous voudrez. Il vous sera livré par la poste à Paris, du mois de Mai en un an.

* Lord Albemarle.

† Mademoiselle Gauchet, a former Columbine.—See H. Walpole's letter to Mann, of May 19, 1750.

TO CAPTAIN IRWINE (AT DUBLIN).

(Works, vol. iv. p. 350.)

London, October 26, 1749.

SIR,

You judge very right in believing that I take a part in what concerns Ireland; I do, and always shall, though an unavailing one. You judged as right too, in thinking that no accounts of that country could come to me from a more welcome hand than yours. Nothing can be better or more clearly stated than your account of the present *important* transactions relative to Charles Lucas, apothecary at Dublin,* who, I believe, is the first apothecary that ever was voted an enemy to his country. That apothecary's stuff—of which, till now, only the recipes were printed—will henceforwards be universally taken, and make a part of the Dublin Dispensatory. In the Book of Holy Martyrs there are many Charles Lucases, whose names would hardly have been known in their own times, but certainly never transmitted down to ours, if they had not been broiled a little; and the obscure Dr. Sacheverell's fortune was made by a Parliamentary prosecution, much about the same time that the French prophets† were totally extinguished by a puppet-show. Great souls are some-

* "The discontented in Ireland had been headed by one Lucas, an apothecary, who was soon after banished from that kingdom, and turned physician in London, where he wrote controversy in his own profession." (Lord Orford's Memoirs, vol. i. p. 244.)

† "Ces Prophètes (du Languedoc) allèrent ensuite en Angleterre. . . . Ils offrirent de ressusciter un mort, et même tel mort que l'on voudroit choisir. . . . La scène finit par mettre au pilori les Prophètes."—Siècle de Louis XIV., ch. xxxii.

times desirous to purchase fame at the expense of their bodies. If Charles Lucas, apothecary, is one of those, one should congratulate him upon this occasion; but if his views were, as from his profession I should be very apt to think they were, of a much *lower nature*, one ought to condole with him upon the suspension of them—at least, for some time. In this uncertainty, I withhold my compliments of either kind to Charles Lucas, apothecary.

But let us come to a better subject. Pray are you Major, or only Captain still? For greater security, I direct this to you by the latter title; but if, in so doing, I injure you, I will publish my recantation upon the back of my next. But, in either case, I hope you have not laid aside the thoughts of going abroad again. You have travelled a little with great profit; travel again, and it will be with still greater. The knowledge of the manners, the language, and the government of the several countries of Europe, is well worth two years' delay of military promotion, supposing that should be the case. I am, with great truth,

Yours, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 179.)

à Londres, ce 4 Decembre, V. S. 1749.

MONSIEUR DE NEVERS, et Monsieur de Nivernois, ne se démentent ni l'un ni l'autre; il ne se peut rien de plus obligeant que la lettre du dernier au premier, que vous avez eu la bonté, Madame, de m'envoyer. Evertuez-vous, je vous en supplie, pour dire de ma

part à l'un et à l'autre tout ce que je devrois leur dire à cette occasion, et que vous direz bien mieux que moi.

Dans la lettre que j'ai pris la liberté d'envoyer à Monsieur de Nivernois par votre garçon, je l'ai appelé, à la mode des Papes, mon neveu, titre qui ne dégrade pas à Rome : si après cela il découvre la petite supercherie, je me flatte qu'il ne s'en offensera pas. Il faut, comme vous le dites, ménager les préjugés établis, et c'est justement là que les petites ruses sont permises pour les éluder, puisqu'on ne doit pas espérer de les détruire. Mon neveu donc n'aura l'honneur de vous faire sa cour à Paris qu'au mois de Mai en un an ; c'est que je veux qu'il ait tout appris avant que d'y aller ; dès qu'à cet âge on a goûté les plaisirs et la dissipation de Paris, adieu toute attention sérieuse, toute application aux études un peu difficiles. Au reste, Madame, mon voyage à Paris ne dépend aucunement du sien ; au contraire, nos âges ne se conviennent pas assez pour nous y trouver ensemble, et nous y serions déplacés vis-à-vis l'un de l'autre.

Au sujet des chaises pour les goutteux, j'aurai l'honneur de vous dire qu'il y en a ici de mille différentes sortes, mais je n'en ai pas vu de la sorte dont vous parlez, qui roulent moyennant une manivelle : la meilleure que j'aie vu, c'est une chaise que feu Monsieur de Broglio avoit fait venir de France, et dont il fit présent à la feuë Reine. L'on s'y roule soi-même par le moyen de deux roues assez grandes, une de chaque côté, qu'on tourne très-facilement des deux mains ; elle sert aussi fort bien dans un jardin, où le terrain est uni ; mais pas où il y a des montées et des descentes. Si, à cette description, Monsieur de Nevers croit

qu'une telle chaise lui conviendra, je me ferai un véritable plaisir de lui en envoyer une. Je m'en suis acheté une en dernier lieu, ayant été enrôlé, depuis un mois, dans le nombre des gouteux. L'attaque a été courte, il est vrai, mais assez vive à la main gauche ; je n'en suis nullement fâché, dans l'espérance qu'elle me garantira des autres maladies, et sur-tout de celles de la tête. La vieillesse commence à exiger ses droits, et j'aime mieux en payer un considérable en forme de goutte, que d'être chicané par la levée de plusieurs moindres tributs, sous les noms de migraines, vertiges, maux de cœur, langueurs, &c. A propos d'incommodités, vous en avez actuellement une, dont vous ne m'avez pas fait part, et à laquelle pourtant je m'intéresse, c'est votre grossesse. Je vous supplie de la terminer par l'heureux accouchement d'un fils, car je ne veux pas que l'esprit, et les talens, qui vous distinguent de votre sexe, tombent en quenouille. Détachez en quelque petite province pour dot à Mademoiselle votre fille : mais je veux que ce soit un fils qui hérite votre empire. Puisse-t-il vous causer le moins de douleur qu'il est possible à son début dans ce monde ici, et toute la joie qu'il est possible dans ses progrès !

TO THE BISHOP OF WATERFORD.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 235.)

London, December 28, 1749.

MY DEAR LORD,

THIS is to most people, and in most places, the season of lies, dignified and distinguished by the name of compliments ; with me it is a season of truth,

when I assure you that I wish you, and all who belong to you, whatever you wish for yourselves or for each other, more particularly health, with which nobody need be unhappy.

Though you would not tell me how soon, and how generously, you provided for Dr. Young's son,* he did, and with all the professions of gratitude which he owed you. I am as much obliged to you as he can be. I am glad that the young man has a good character, which you know I made a *conditio sine quâ non* of my request; and I hope that my recommendation interfered with no views of your own in favour of any other person.

Lord Scarborough's picture will be finished this week, and sent to Mrs. Chenevix. I think it is very well done, and indeed ought to be by the time Barret has taken to do it in; but he has taken it into his head, and I cannot say that I have discouraged him, that a great painter should also be a poet—that the same warmth of imagination equally forms both—and, consequently, when I expect him to bring me home a very good copy of a picture, he frequently brings an execrable copy of verses instead of it. The melon seeds shall go by the same opportunities of the picture and candlesticks; which I suppose will be time enough, since they are not to be sown till February.

I have not yet been able to get the workmen out of

* "I must observe here, that Lord Chesterfield never recommended "any one to the Ecclesiastical preferments in my gift, but Mr. Young. "When he did, it was in the handsomest manner, by telling me twice "in his letter, 'Remember that I do not recommend, but if you ap- "prove of his character you will do a good-natured action.'"—Note by the Bishop of Waterford.

my house in town, and shall have the pleasure of their company some months longer. One would think that I liked them, for I am now full of them at Blackheath, where I am adding a gallery. *Il ne faut jamais faire les sottises à demi.* I am, my dear Lord,
Yours, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 183.)

à Londres, ce 1 Janvier, V. S. 1750.

CE jour ci, qui est à Paris, à Versailles, et à Londres, la fête des mensonges, est pour moi un jour de vérité, n'y ayant rien de plus vrai ni de plus sincère que les vœux que je fais pour votre santé, et pour votre bonheur.—C'est là le commencement d'une lettre de Rousseau,* que par hasard je viens de lire dans le moment, et que j'adopte, Madame, du fond de mon cœur, en vous écrivant ce premier jour de notre année. Ces vœux, depuis que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous connoître, n'ont jamais manqué ou de vérité, ou d'ardeur ; mais il me semble que cette année y a ajouté de la vivacité, à cause de la situation dans laquelle elle vous trouve ; situation inquiétante pour vos amis, mais, ne vous en déplaît, nullement ridicule pour vous. Quoi ! faut-il donc être toujours grosse, ou bien jamais grosse ? ou bien, faut-il un certain nombre de grossesses annuelles fixé par la mode ? Que voulez-vous dire avec vos quarante-trois ans ? Est-ce que les loix de la nature, de pays, ou de la bienséance, ont établi cette époque pour la stérilité ? Au contraire, je soutiens

* Jean Baptiste Rousseau.

que votre grossesse actuelle est une grossesse de bien-séance et de devoir. Vous aviez trop peu travaillé pour la société; vous lui deviez encore de votre race, et vous recommencez à présent à vous acquitter de ce devoir. Je vous en annonce encore quatre ou cinq de suite. Au reste, puisque ni vous ni Mademoiselle votre fille ne voulez absolument pas que cet enfant soit un fils, en cas de ce malheur envoyez-le moi, je l'adopterai volontiers, et je me ferai gloire même de dire qu'il est à moi. Ce sera un ouvrage de réflexion, vous avez pris bien du tems à le composer, et je passerai pour l'auteur d'un chef-d'œuvre; il y a des plagiaires pour bien moins que cela.

Votre lettre, et celle de Monsieur de Nevers, ont fait tout l'effet que je pouvois souhaiter auprès de Monsieur de Nivernois, en faveur de votre élève; j'en ai reçu une lettre avant-hier de Rome, dans laquelle il me marque que Monsieur et Madame de Nivernois l'ont accablé de politesses, et qu'il y est comme enfant, même gâté, de la maison. S'il ne mérite pas ces attentions, du moins il les reconnoit, et vous en attribue une bonne moitié.

Faites-moi savoir, je vous en supplie, Madame, par deux lignes de la main d'un valet, ou d'une fille de chambre, votre heureux accouchement aussi-tôt qu'il arrivera, car en vérité je m'intéresse trop à un moment si important pour vous, pour en attendre la nouvelle, jusqu'à votre convalescence. Adieu, Madame, encore.
Molti e felici.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 187.)

à Londres, ce 18 Janvier, V. S. 1750.

J'AI l'honneur de vous envoyer, Madame, trois ananas qui ne valent rien, premièrement parceque ce n'en est pas la saison, et ensuite parcequ'il a fallu les cueillir avant qu'ils fussent mûrs, sans quoi ils auroient été en compôte à leur arrivée à Paris. Je les envoie par un courier jusqu'à Calais, où ils seront livrés au directeur des postes, selon l'adresse que vous m'avez donnée. Comme les envies des femmes grosses se contentent plus par le nom que par le mérite des choses, j'espère que ces ananas tiendront lieu de bons, auprès de Madame la Dauphine;* mais le fait est qu'ils sont mauvais; la véritable saison n'est que depuis le mois de Juin jusqu'à celui d'Octobre.

Cette lettre, qui va par un courier, les devancera, j'espère, assez pour vous préparer à toutes les cérémonies requises. Au moins ne croyez pas que ces ananas soient de *Babiole*, vous feriez trop de tort à mon jardinage. Les miens sont bien autre chose, mais j'ai eu ceux-ci du seul homme en Angleterre, qui les fait venir dans cette saison. Si vous me promettez d'en venir goûter à *Babiole* au mois d'Août prochain, je promets de venir vous chercher à *Bagatelle* au mois de Mai.

J'ai reçu la lettre du monde la plus obligeante de la part de Monsieur de Nivernois, en réponse à celle que votre élève lui a apportée de la mienne; je n'y ai

* Marie Josèphe de Saxe, the mother of Louis XVI., Louis XVIII., and Charles X.

pas repliqué, et cela par discrétion, puisque, fait comme il est, c'eût été lui donner la peine d'écrire encore ; mais ayez la bonté d'insinuer cela auprès de Monsieur de Nevers, en même tems que vous voudrez bien l'assurer de ma parfaite reconnoissance.

Continuez, Madame, à m'honorer de vos ordres, quand je pourrai vous être bon à quelque chose, car je vous proteste que rien ne peut égaler le plaisir que j'ai à vous prouver mon attachement inviolable.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 189.)

à Londres, ce 8 Mars, V. S. 1750.

JE vous ai fait quartier, Madame, depuis quelque tems, mais, soit que vous m'en teniez compte, ou soit que vous m'en blâmiez, je n'y entre pour rien, également exempt de mérite, ou de crime. J'ai été accablé de migraines, et excédé d'affaires ; d'affaires de famille j'entends, et de détails qui demandoient un arrangement, auquel je ne suis ni naturellement trop porté, ni trop propre. Mes migraines m'ont quitté, et je vous envoie les prémices d'une tête qui n'est pas encore bien rétablie ; ils auront apparemment quelque goût du terroir : mais les sacrifices ont toujours été reçus plus ou moins favorablement, selon les moyens et les intentions de ceux qui les faisoient, et point sur le pied de leur valeur intrinsèque. Recevez donc, Madame, mes offrandes, quelque médiocres qu'elles soient en elles-mêmes, comme celles d'un cœur qui vous est tout dévoué.

Je suis charmé d'apprendre que les ananas aient si bien réussi ; mais assurément il ne leur falloit pas moins que l'envie d'une femme grosse, pour les faire trouver bons, et le goût que Madame la Dauphine y a trouvé, me paroît une preuve incontestable de sa grosseesse : dans cette supposition, vous pourrez peut-être avoir sauvé à la France un Duc de Bourgogne, et je serai trop heureux d'avoir pu contribuer au mérite que vous en aurez.

J'ai parlé à — au sujet des plans et des manuscrits de feu son oncle, mais il n'a pas voulu se prêter à la moindre communication de ces papiers. C'est un jeune homme élevé au métier des armes, entêté du mérite supérieur de son oncle, et qui croit posséder exclusivement, dans ces paperasses, des trésors immenses et uniques.

Nous avons eu ici ce matin un second tremblement de terre, plus vif encore que celui d'aujourd'hui il y a un mois. Toutes les maisons de Londres en ont été ébranlées, et quelques cheminées sont tombées ; c'étoit à cinq heures et demie ce matin. J'étois profondément endormi, mais la force de la secousse m'a réveillé en sursaut, et j'ai cru voir le moment où je serois écrasé. L'avez-vous senti chez vous, ou avons-nous joui privativement de ce phénomène ? En tout cas, j'espère qu'il ne vous aura pas effrayée dans votre situation présente : vos ouvrages méritent bien d'être portés au dernier point de perfection.

Je doute fort si j'aurai le plaisir de vous faire ma cour cette année : ce ne sera pas au moins, comme vous jugez bien, la volonté qui manquera, mais c'est que j'envisage bien des circonstances peu favorables à ce voyage. Je tâcherai pourtant de les écarter, s'il

m'est possible, n'y ayant rien que je souhaite plus ardemment que le plaisir de vous assurer encore une fois en personne de la vérité de mes sentimens, et de l'attachement inviolable avec lequel je serai toujours, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 93.)

London, March 30, O. S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

YOUR signs of life came very seasonably to convince me, that the concern you were in at leaving your *dear country** had not put an end to it. I happened to relate very properly the agonies I saw you in at leaving England, in company, where a lady seemed to think that she was the cause of them. She inquired minutely into the degree and nature of them; spoke of them with tenderness and compassion, though she confessed a quarrel with you for three days before you went away, which had broke off all communication between you. To this I answered like your godfather, that to part with her would have been sufficient cause for your grief; but to part with her offended and incensed, more than justified the despair I observed in you. I obliged her at last to confess, that she wished she had seen you the day before you went. Make your most of these informations in your next letter to her.

You found Holland just as you left it, that is to say, in the same state of insolvency and confusion. I

* Mr. Dayrolles had been in England on leave of absence between July, 1749, and March, 1750.

fear it will be soon worse, if my suspicions are founded; for I have good reason to suspect, that your rulers are wild enough to think of engaging in a new war. It is now beginning in the North; and, though publicly it is discouraged, privately it is encouraged, not only in Holland, but *elsewhere*. The Czarina will, I am convinced, soon strike the first blow. The Court of Vienna hopes that the King of Prussia will strike the second, and give them a pretence to the third. If France does not interpose, the King of Prussia is demolished. If France does, it can only be by way of diversion, in falling upon the Queen of Hungary; and that will necessarily be in Flanders, which, it is *hoped* and believed, will force the Maritime Powers to take a part. Bentinck, now at Vienna, could tell us more of this, if he pleased.

I have not heard one word about Mr. Harte,* which makes me believe that I shall not. He shall be no loser, however, and other people no gainers, by the refusal.

Mr. Durand brought me a letter from my Baron, full of complaints of his health. Make him my compliments, and tell him that he shall hear from me soon.

On Thursday sevensnight the Parliament rises; and the Tuesday following his Majesty sets out for Hanover. The Regency is at last settled, and the Duke not to be one.

Adieu, mon cher enfant; soyez persuadé que je vous aimerai toujours.

* Lord Chesterfield had lately applied to obtain for Mr. Harte a prebend of Windsor.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 95.)

London, April 14, O. S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I COULD not refuse this recommendation of a *virtuosa* to a *virtuoso*. The girl is a real prodigy; but sometimes a prodigy without a puff will not do. Your hearing her once, and your puffing her afterwards, is all that she desires. The great point is to get the Princess of Orange to hear her, which she thinks will *make her fortune*. Even the great Handel has deigned to recommend her there; so that a word from your Honour will be sufficient. Adieu!

Yours faithfully.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 193.)

à Londres, ce 19 Avril, V. S. 1750.

ME voici hors d'inquiétude, Madame, puisque vous voilà hors d'affaires. Vous vous étiez trop long-tems désaccoutumée d'un métier, qui demande de l'habitude pour être facile, et je vous avoue que je craignois pour vous, plus que je ne pouvois, ou que je ne voulois vous dire. Si vous comptez de continuer la fabrique des enfans, n'y mettez plus, s'il vous plait, un si long intervalle, mais faites les tout de suite, et sur-tout ayez à l'avenir un peu plus d'attention au genre masculin. Il semble que vous ne peuplez que pour les Amazones; mais je veux absolument, pour

l'honneur de mon sexe, que vous nous donniez un fils qui vous ressemble. Au reste, Mademoiselle la première, dont les vœux ont été exaucés en dépit des miens, par l'arrivée de Mademoiselle la seconde, a tort, et elle regrettera, avec le tems, le succès de ses vœux, car je me trompe fort si Mademoiselle la seconde ne sera pas Mademoiselle Benjamin ; au lieu qu'un frère ne l'auroit éclipsée que pour un tems, et son interposition entre elle et vous auroit bientôt fini pour l'armée ou les affaires.

Vous me reprochez mon malheur, comme s'il y avoit de ma faute ; cela n'est pas généreux, Madame, et je ne vous y reconnois point. Il m'est assez sensible de ne pouvoir pas avoir le bonheur de vous faire ma cour cette année, sans que vous y ajoutiez la mortification d'en soupçonner ma volonté. Pour m'en dédommager un peu, je vous enverrai un ambassadeur extraordinaire, muni de mes pleins pouvoirs, auquel je vous prie d'ajouter foi en tout ce qu'il vous dira de ma part. C'est votre élève, qui sera à Paris vers la St. Michel, établi à l'académie de La Guérinière. J'espère que son dernier séjour à Rome l'aura un peu formé, mais en tout cas je compte sur Paris, c'est-à-dire sur vous : s'il est gauche ou impoli, je vous supplie de ne lui rien passer, mais de lui en parler très-sérieusement, et de tems en tems lui lâcher des traits de ridicule, qui font souvent plus d'effet sur les jeunes gens, que les remontrances sérieuses. Je lui ai déjà fait savoir qu'il vous appartient en propre, que je vous ai transporté tous mes droits sur lui, et que son crédit et sa faveur auprès de moi dépendront uniquement des relations que j'en recevrai de votre part. C'est un esclavage bien doux et bien utile que

je lui destine; et s'il a le bon sens qu'on m'assure qu'il a, il le trouvera tel, et aura pour vous les sentimens de considération, d'estime, d'amitié, et de respect avec lesquels je vous donne actuellement le bon soir.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, April 27, O.S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM two letters in your debt; but, as I knew that you were rambling, I did not know where to tender the payment.

By this time it is probable that you are re-established at the Hague. Had an unhappy foreigner been obliged to pass as many days at Plymouth as you passed at Calais, how admirably he would have diverted himself, and how politely he would have been received! Whereas, I dare say, you passed your time very well at Calais, in case you were not too much an Englishman to think so.

It is very true, that, after a series of difficulties, which, I believe, were never made before upon so trifling an occasion, Mr. Harte has at last got a prebend of Windsor. I am most extremely glad of it; for, that debt being now paid, I owe no man living anything. As it is necessary that he should come over here to take possession of his stall, I have directed him to bring the boy to Paris, and to fix him in La Guérinière's academy there, *pour le dégourdir, le dégraisser et le décrotter*. Some proper steps have been already taken towards that at Rome. * * *

When he arrives at Paris, I will send him a letter of recommendation à *Son Excellence Madame de Berkenroodt*; *valeat quantum*. In all events, it will be a good house for him to frequent. *Vous y mettrez du vôtre aussi, s'il vous plait*, by writing a word or two in his favour to the lady, or her husband, or both. Pray buy me six dozen of pints of the Cape wine you mention, and have it carefully packed up, and directed, à *Madame la Marquise de Monconseil, dans la rue de Verneuil, Faubourg St. Germain, à Paris*, and then send it with a note to *Messieurs Testas Père et Fils, à Amsterdam*, recommending to their care to forward it to her. Draw upon me for what more you shall disburse, than the twopence of mine now in your hands.

Comte Obdam's sale, I suppose, draws near, at which pray buy me such bustoes and vases as you shall find are universally allowed to be both antique and fine, at such rates as you shall think reasonable; in the whole, you may go as far as two hundred pounds, if the objects are curious and worth it.

Shall you not be surprised, if, at your return here, you find a *pendant* for your Rubens, full as large, and by a still greater master? I have reason to believe that will be the case, and then I shall undoubtedly have two of the most capital pictures in England of those two great masters. For the *virtuosi* here now unanimously confess, that all the Rubenses in England must strike to mine.

I believe, as you say, that you found things in the United Provinces just as you left them, a great deal talked of, and nothing done. However, they would do well to consider, that, in their situation, not to advance is to go backwards. You may depend upon it,

that, whatever you may have heard said to the contrary, war was the original design, and the Prussian bear-skin was again scantled out upon paper; but the strong declarations, and indeed preparations, of France on one hand, and the apprehensions which Russia, on the other, had just reasons to entertain of the Turk, have respectively obliged *certain powers* to put water in their wine; and I now verily believe that the North will clear up, and settle for some time in peace.

Lord Harrington is arrived here from Ireland; bon-fires were made and a thousand insults offered him at his departure.

Pray, make my compliments to my Baron, to whom I owe a letter; which I have not paid for mere want of specie. Is he got to his own house again? Surely it has undergone lustrations enough to be sufficiently purified for his reception. *La Belle Cécile se sauvera bientôt ou bien séchera sur pied pour l'amour de Monsieur le Capitaine.* Everything here is just as you left it. I am, and ever shall be so, with regard to you: *c'est tout dire; bon soir, mon enfant.*

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 98.)

London, May 25, O.S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I FIND your journey through Flanders has been, like every man's journey through the world, some good and some bad; but, upon the whole, it was as well as being at the Hague. By what you observed, it is evident that the Court of Vienna will not lay

out a shilling upon the barrier towns, but throw that burthen, as they do every other, upon the Maritime Powers; saying, that they get nothing by Flanders, but that it is our business to take care of it. I am an Austrian in my politics, and would support that House, if I could: but, then I would be their ally, not their bubble; their friend, but not their victim.

With your leave, Sir, it is none of Boden's trumpery that is to hang over against the Rubens, but a Holy Family, the master-piece of Titian; for which the late Regent had agreed to give forty thousand livres to the Chapter at Rheims. It was accordingly sent him; but when it arrived at Paris he was dead and gone, not to the Holy Family, I believe. His son, the present Duke of Orleans, chose rather to return the picture than the money; the Chapter was obliged to take it back, and there it has remained ever since. I accidentally heard of this, and that the Chapter was special poor; upon which, I determined to try what I could do, and I have succeeded. As this picture was brought from Italy by the famous Cardinal de Lorraine, after he had been at the Council of Trent, and given by him to the Cathedral of Rheims, of which he was Archbishop, he gave them at the same time his own picture, a whole length, done by Titian; which I have likewise got: they are both arrived at Paris, and I expect them here very soon. This, you will allow, is no trumpery, and I have now done with pictures; I am brimfull, and not ill filled.

Comte Obdam's *virtù* will, I think, for the reason you give, go very cheap; few people in Holland understanding those things, or even thinking that they do. I would not give sixpence for his bronzes, nor a

shilling for his books; but for some of his antique marbles, I would give reasonably. Those which, upon the face of the catalogue, I should choose, are the following ones.

297. *Hermes (Buste) juvenis Romani cum lorica et sago, in marmore. Ant.*

298. *Bacchus, cum coronâ hederacéâ. Ant.*

302. *Caput juvenis Romani, supra basin. Ant.*

305. *Statua cum anaglyphis, sacrificium in honorem Priapi efformantibus. Ant.*

There are also in the appendix two bustos, one of Homer, the other of Apollo, by Girardon; which, if they go extremely cheap, as possibly they may, I should be glad of them; by extremely cheap, I mean about ten pounds a-piece. For the four antiques above-marked, *l'un portant l'autre*; if they are fine, I would go as far as five and twenty pounds a-piece. But should these which I have mentioned have great faults, and others which I have not mentioned have great beauties, I refer to your decision, who are upon the place, and have *un coup d'œil vif et pénétrant*.

You will see Hop at the Hague next week; it is sooner than he proposed to go, but he is ordered, which gives him some apprehensions. You will also see the famous Madame du Boccage, who sets out from hence with her husband, and Abbé Guasco *de l'Académie des Inscriptions*, next Tuesday. She has translated Milton into French verse, and gave a tragedy last winter at Paris, called *les Amazones*. She has good parts, *n'affiche pas le bel esprit*. Pray, give them *un petit diner*, and let them know that I

did them justice with you ; they stay but a few days at the Hague, so cannot be very troublesome to you. But I possibly shall, if I lengthen this letter : so *bon soir*.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.*

(Works, vol. iv. p. 335.)

à Londres, ce 14 Juin, V. S. 1750.

PARLONS naturellement, Madame. Convenez avec moi que votre mérite, et la réputation que vous vous êtes acquise, vous seront par-tout des recommandations suffisantes, et vous procureront en tout pays l'accueil que vous avez trouvé en Hollande. Je n'ai pas prétendu vous recommander à M. Dayrolles ; je vous ai simplement annoncée. J'ai été votre nouvelliste, et j'ai mis seulement dans ma feuille volante que Madame du Bocage se disposoit à partir de Londres pour la Haye. Voilà tout ce qu'il faut à de certaines gens.

En quatre jours de séjour en Hollande, vous vous en êtes fait les mêmes idées, q'un séjour de plus de quatre ans m'en avoient données, et vous me les rappelez toutes en quatre lignes. Il est si vrai que les hommes y sont tardifs, que je ne me souviens pas d'y en avoir vu, qui fussent ce qu'en tout autre pays on appelleroit jeunes. Mais si vous y croyez les femmes aussi tranquilles que les eaux de leurs canaux, et aussi propres que leurs maisons, les deux tiers des maris n'en conviendroient pas, et vous diroient, à l'oreille

* This lady was born in 1710, and survived till 1802. Her poems were numerous, and, during a part at least of her career, much admired. Among them was a translation of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, as mentioned in the last letter ; and subsequently the *Colombiade*, an epic in ten books, on the discovery of America.

s'entend, que ce n'est qu'à l'extérieur. Chez elles ce sont des *Amazones*,* et les maris les malheureux captifs, destinés à perpétuer la *gunarchie*. Aussi peuplent-ils infiniment, et du plus grand sérieux du monde. Ils envisagent la fabrique des enfans comme un article nécessaire à leur commerce, et s'en acquittent en bons citoyens.

L'épithète d'immobile, que vous donnez à mon ami L——, est des plus justes. Le bon homme semble avoir seulement le soin et non la propriété de ses tableaux. Il les montre avec une indifférence si stoïque, qu'il me rappelle certains messieurs noirs en Turquie qui ont un soin immobile des plus beaux originaux du monde. Il est vrai que je lui envie un bon nombre de ses tableaux, et je crois pouvoir le faire, sans donner la moindre atteinte au dixième commandement, qui suppose sans doute que les gens jouissent de ce qu'il ne faut pas que les autres convoitent. Je trouve ce cas de conscience des plus clairs, et sûrement des plus commodes; car il va loin, je ne sais si les vingt-quatre† y ont pensé.

Rassurez-vous, Madame, sur les avances que la singularité de mon Baron vous aura obligée de faire pour voir un tel original. Sa réputation depuis longtems constatée met toutes les autres réputations en sûreté. Depuis plus de quinze ans, il a renoncé publiquement et solennellement à celui des cinq sens, qui seul met les réputations en danger;‡ et observé sa renonciation avec un scrupule, qui devrait faire

* Alluding to Madame du Bocage's new tragedy.

† The Doctors of Sorbonne.

‡ The sense of feeling. Baron de Kreuningen had, it appears, a morbid dread of the plague.

rougir tous les Rois de la terre. Je m'attends tous les jours à votre portrait, et suis bien sûr qu'il m'en fera part : je promets de vous en envoyer copie. S'il ne ressemble pas bien, du moins il ne sera pas flatté ; mon Baron n'est nullement adulateur. Au reste, Madame, ne laissez pas séduire votre goût par le sien ; ne vous prêtez pas à la simplicité, ou plutôt à la fadeur, de la tragédie Grecque, que nous faisons semblant d'admirer pour paroître savans, mais qui nous ennuie fort. Excitez toujours, comme il vous convient de le faire, des passions plus délicates, plus douces que celles de l'horreur et de la crainte ; et ne nous donnez pas des *chorus* de gens inconnus, pour développer, Dieu sait par quel moyen, ce que les plus intéressés de la pièce semblent ignorer. Vous ne m'êtes pas suspecte ; et vos *Amazones*, avec leur simplicité, me sont garantes du contraire.

Qu'il me seroit glorieux, si mon buste méritoit la place que vous lui offrez ! Mais qu'il me seroit humiliant, si l'on vous obligeoit de faire les preuves de votre nouveau venu ! Croyez-moi, Madame, ne nous commettons ni l'un ni l'autre ; allons au plus sûr. Je vous enverrai deux bustes, qui non seulement méritent mais exigent une place dans votre jardin, tant ils se sont trouvés bien dans votre cabinet, je veux dire Milton et Pope ; ils n'y craindront pas la compagnie, quelque bonne qu'elle soit ; d'ailleurs, ils ont déjà leurs preuves et leurs patentes contre-signées de votre propre main : dès qu'ils seront faits, je vous les enverrai.

Nous ne nous flattons pas que vous regrettiez un peu l'Angleterre, mais nous espérons de n'être pas bannis de votre souvenir. Nous prétendons que nos

regrets de votre départ nous donnent de certains droits. En vérité, Madame, vous vous êtes fait dans ce pays-ci autant d'amis et de serviteurs, que vous y avez fait de connoissances ; dans un sens je prétends au haut bout dans cette compagnie, mais c'est uniquement par le respect et l'attachement, avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, très-parfaitement.

Votre très-humble et obéissant serviteur.

Madame de Chesterfield me charge de ses complimens pour vous et pour Monsieur du Boccage ; permettez que j'y ajoute les miens pour lui.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, June 19, O. S. 1750.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I MUST say, as most fools do, *who would have thought it ?* My fine Titian has turned out an execrable bad copy. By good luck, the condition of the obligation was such, that, if certain good judges at Paris should declare it either a copy, or essentially damaged, the Chapter of Rheims was to take it back again, I paying the carriage. This has happened ; and the best painters in Paris pronounced it not only a copy, but a d—— one ; so that I am only in for the carriage back. The Chapter must have been more fools than knaves in the affair ; for, had they known it to be a copy, they might have known, at the same time, that it would be returned them ; by which they would get nothing but the discrediting of their picture for ever.

I have received a letter from Madame du Boccage, containing a panegyric of his Majesty's Resident at the Hague. *Il est très aimable, très poli, il est au mieux avec tout ce qu'il y a de meilleur ici, et il fait très-bonne chère.* *Faire bonne chère*, you know, always sums up a French panegyric. She says, that by your means she received a thousand civilities at the Hague. She did so here, notwithstanding that Madame de Mirepoix and she had a quarrel, in which they both contrived, as all ladies when they quarrel do, to be both extremely in the wrong.

I do not know whether my friend Abbé Guasco's judgment in *virtù* will be of any great service to us at Comte Obdam's, and I would sooner trust to your own *coup d'œil, qui est mordieu vif et perçant !*

I am very much *par voies, et par chemins*, between London and Blackheath, but much more at the latter, which is now in great beauty. The shell of my gallery is finished, which, by three bow-windows, gives me three different, and the finest, prospects in the world. I have already two or three of your Cantelupe melons, which are admirable; I have covered those, which are not yet ripe, with frames of oiled paper, which I am assured will do much better than glasses.

I am glad that Hop is better than he thinks himself, for he received his orders to go to Hanover, with some uneasiness, knowing that Bentinck was to be there also, in his way from Vienna. When Bentinck returns to the Hague, some new scene or other will open. He must be either Cæsar or nobody. I rather expect to see him soon the latter; combining all the circumstances that you and I know.

The Prince of Wales's last child* was at last, christened the day before yesterday, after having been kept at least a fortnight longer than it should have been out of a state of salvation, by the jumble of the two Secretaries of State, whose reciprocal despatches carried, nor brought, nothing decisive. Our English Atlas† has carried our part of the globe with him to Woburn, où il s'ébaudit, et se délecte. Adieu.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 197.)

à Londres, ce 28 Juin, V.S. 1750.

PRENEZ garde, Madame, on vous fâchera exprès, tant votre colère est flatteuse, et votre vengeance douce; mais quoique vous soyez désabusée du motif de votre colère, exécutez pourtant votre vengeance, dont vous aurez bientôt l'occasion, puisque votre élève vous fera sa cour au mois d'Octobre prochain. Pardonnez-moi à présent un détail ennuyant sur un sujet, auquel je prends un si tendre intérêt. J'ai donc fait mes arrangemens avec Monsieur de la Guérinière pour le recevoir interne dans son académie; son gouverneur l'y établira, et puis le quittera, pour s'en retourner ici. J'ai cru qu'à son âge, et sans

* Prince Frederick William, born May 30, 1750; died December 29, 1765.

† The Duke of Bedford. At the same period Mr. Pelham makes the same complaint of his Grace's love of ease. "With him it is all "jollity, boyishness, and vanity; he persuades himself that riding post "from London to Woburn and back again once in a week or fortnight "is doing a great deal of business." (To the Duke of Newcastle, July 25, 1750. Coxe's Pelham.)

gouverneur, il étoit plus sûr de le mettre dans l'académie, que de le laisser en hôtel garni; et d'ailleurs, qu'a l'académie il fera connoissance avec vos jeunes François, et sera plus à l'abri des jeunes Anglois, contre lesquels je suis extrêmement sur mes gardes. J'adresserai son gouverneur à l'Abbé Sallier, pour concerter avec lui, avant qu'il le quitte, les maîtres qu'il lui faudra pour la géométrie, l'astronomie, et la philosophie. Je suis persuadé que l'Abbé Sallier voudra bien lui indiquer des sujets convenables. Comme il est accoutumé, depuis plus d'un an, d'avoir assez de liberté, dont par parenthèse il n'a jamais abusé, je ne compte pas l'enfermer dans l'académie, et j'ai fait dire à Monsieur de la Guérinière qu'après que les exercices du matin seront finis, il doit lui permettre d'aller où il voudra, c'est-à-dire dans des certaines bornes. Voilà donc tout arrangé par rapport au savoir, et aux exercices; mais il reste un article bien intéressant, je veux dire les mœurs, les manières, la politesse, le ton du beau monde; c'est à quoi, si vous le voulez bien, vous pouvez plus contribuer que personne, et j'ose vous en supplier. Prenez avec lui un certain ton d'autorité, parlez-lui ouvertement, s'il est nécessaire, sur sa conduite, et ne lui passez point la moindre chose. S'il est gauche, s'il a mauvais air, s'il est impoli, moquez-vous de lui, et tournez-le en ridicule; sur ces articles-là, c'est souvent le moyen le plus efficace avec les jeunes gens. Permettez-lui d'être votre galopin chez vous; traitez-le sans façon, et ayez la bonté de me dire tout naturellement ce que vous en pensez. Après les soins que j'ai eu de son éducation, indépendamment de ma tendresse pour lui, je me fais une affaire, je me pique même de sa réussite

dans le monde. Ce n'est pas pour vous faire un fade compliment, mais c'est très-véritablement que je vous proteste, que je crois que sa réussite dans le monde dépendra plus de vous que de tout autre chose. Je le recommande donc, Madame, à ces sentimens d'amitié dont vous m'avez toujours honoré, et dont vous ne pouvez pas me donner une preuve plus sensible, que par vos bontés à cet autre moi-même.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 341.)

à Londres, ce 25 Juillet, V. S. 1750.

Vous avez paré le coup, que j'allois vous porter. Au moment que je reçois la vôtre, je prenois la plume pour vous attaquer : je la prends à present pour vous remercier d'une lettre, dont les agrémens et les details intéressans, non seulement calment ma colère, mais excitent ma plus vive reconnoissance. En conscience vous nous devez réparation du mauvais tour que vous nous avez joué. Vous n'êtes venue ici que pour nous donner des regrets de votre départ ; vous nous flattiez d'un plus long séjour : mais dès que vous avez senti que votre coup étoit fait, vous vous êtes sauvée. Nous vous condamnons donc à de grosses amendes épistolaires, d'autant plus justes qu'elles ne sont que proportionnées à vos moyens. Au reste ce n'étoit pas seulement à l'Angleterre que vous en vouliez, mais aux puissances maritimes ; puisque Dayrolles, qui est ici depuis huit jours, m'assure qu'en regrets sur votre départ la Hollande fait cause commune avec nous ; mais elle démêlera cette affaire comme il lui plaira ;

pour moi, en véritable allié, je ne pense qu'à mon intérêt particulier.

On dit que Cléopatre* n'a pas réussi. La pièce manque sans doute de conduite; j'ai peine à croire que l'auteur d'Aristomène et de Denis le Tyran ait fait une mauvaise pièce sur un si beau sujet. Il a sûrement du feu, du génie, de la verve; mais n'importe, il aura manqué à quelque règle de théâtre; il est proscrit. Vous vous êtes forgé des chaines poétiques bien rudes, sous le poids desquelles tout bon auteur doit gémir, et souhaiter de les briser; au lieu qu'un auteur sans feu, comme un amant sans vigueur, chérit ses chaines; l'un devient régulier, et autre respectueux, par impuissance. Rome sauvée ne réussira peut-être pas non plus. Voltaire veut se faire des règles nouvelles, et la mode, chez vous encore plus qu'ici, décide des ouvrages des poètes comme de ceux des marchands. Je suis sûr pourtant que son Ciceron ne ressemblera guères à celui de Crébillon, qui dans le plus bel endroit de sa vie est un imbécille. Enfin, quoiqu'en dise votre public, tout ce que Voltaire fait me charme. Toujours les plus beaux vers du monde, et des pensées brillantes et justes; je n'en demande pas davantage; *non paucis offendar maculis*.

Sur l'échantillon que Madame de Graffigny a donné de la délicatesse de son esprit dans ses Lettres Péruviennes, j'augure bien de sa comédie,† quoique ces comédies tragiques et larmoyantes ne soient pas de mon goût. Qu'on me donne les choses pour ce qu'elles sont; j'aime à rire et à pleurer dans les formes: il y

* A tragedy by Marmontel.

† *Cénie*. See Lord Chesterfield's letter to his son of February 20, 1752.

a pourtant quelque chose à dire en leur faveur. Horace permet à la comédie de s'élever de tems en tems ; et l'intérêt, les sentimens et les situations touchantes ne sont pas bornés aux rois et aux héros. La vie ordinaire les fournit.

J'ai lu les soi-disantes lettres de Ninon de l'Enclos, et me suis douté qu'on avoit emprunté un nom si célèbre, pour faire passer un ouvrage médiocre. Il n'a pas ce caractère marqué, qui auroit distingué les lettres de cette célèbre catin. Le second volume, comme vous le dites, vaut mieux, encore ne vaut-il guères. J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un respectueux attachement,

Madame,
Votre, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 201.)

à Londres, ce 25 Juillet, V. S. 1750.

PERMETTEZ-moi, Madame, d'entamer une petite controverse avec vous sur l'affaire en question ; mais pas pourtant dans l'esprit ordinaire des controverses, où les deux parties débutent dans la ferme résolution de ne pas se laisser persuader ; pour moi mon esprit est ouvert à la conviction, j'ai seulement quelques doutes à vous proposer. Si votre élève est interne chez La Guérinière, il y trouvera assez mauvaise compagnie, qui l'engageront à leurs parties de jeu, de cabaret, et de filles : la chose est très-possible ; mais aussi en y allant, tous les matins, comme externe, pour apprendre ses exercices, n'est-il pas exposé aux mêmes dangers ?

N'y trouvera-t-il pas les mêmes personnes ? et ces mêmes personnes, par les raisons que vous donnez, ne formeront-elles pas de liaisons avec lui, et ne le fréquenteront-elles pas quoiqu'il soit en pension ailleurs ? Monsieur de la Guérinière n'aura-t-il pas aussi un peu l'œil sur sa conduite, et surtout sur les liaisons qu'il y formeroit ? En pension, je le croirois beaucoup plus exposé aux incursions des barbares ses compatriotes, et débauche pour débauche, je préférerois la Françoisé à l'Angloise ; d'ailleurs, j'ai tout lieu de croire qu'il déteste foncièrement le jeu, et vin ; pour le reste, il a jusqu'ici eu des égards, et pour sa santé, et pour la bienséance. On ne peut pas s'attendre qu'à son âge, il veuille, ou même qu'il puisse, toujours vivre avec des gens d'un âge plus avancé, et d'un certain caractère ; les jeunes gens se cherchent, se trouvent, et où en trouvera-t-il de meilleurs qu'à l'académie ? S'il doit y aller tous les matins faire ses exercices, ne seront-ils pas souvent négligés ? Un matin froid, pluvieux, sombre, est décourageant ; on congédie le carrosse, un ami entre à déjeuner, adieu les exercices de cette matinée. J'ai dit : toute reflèxion faite, ai-je tort ? Si vous me dites encore que je l'ai, j'en conviendrai. Il est vrai que si l'on pouvoit trouver à le mettre en une pension, où le maître et la maîtresse de la maison fussent des gens d'un certaine tournure, que le mari eût de l'esprit, du savoir, des manières, et la femme un peu le ton de la passablement bonne compagnie, je comprends bien qu'il pourroit y être mieux qu'à l'académie : mais où trouver une telle pension ? Des gens de cette sorte n'ont garde de s'embarrasser d'un jeune étourdi de dixhuit ans : le mari craindroit pour sa femme, si elle étoit jeune ; et si elle étoit

vieille, elle craindrait pour ses filles. Enfin j'attends vos ordres, et vos idées ultérieures, avant que de prendre finalement mon parti.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 203.)

à Londres, ce 9 Août, V. S. 1750.

QUE vous dirai-je, Madame? Votre amitié, vos soins, vos attentions, sont uniques; on n'est accoutumé à rien de pareil, le moyen donc d'y répondre! Mettez-vous seulement, pour un moment, dans ma situation vis-à-vis de vous, et soyez persuadé que tout ce que votre cœur vous diroit en pareil cas, et il vous dit toujours tout ce qu'il faut, est précisément ce que je pense, ce que je sens, mais ce que je ne prétends pas vous dire.

Faute de trouver un meilleur parti, nous convenons donc de l'académie, pour les raisons que je vous ai données, et que l'Abbé Sallier paroît approuver. Votre élève, si je ne m'y trompe, a plus besoin d'être décrotté, par la compagnie de vos jeunes gaillards, que d'être retenu, et je crains plutôt sa trop grande application aux études, que sa trop grande dissipation dans le monde. Ce qui lui manque le plus, c'est cet air, cette tournure, ces manières, ce monde, qui sont nécessaires pour un jeune homme; d'ailleurs, il a de l'ambition, et se pique, et se plait à être dans les bonnes compagnies, de façon que j'ose répondre qu'il ne formera des liaisons qu'avec les meilleurs sujets de l'académie. Je reconnois bien l'Abbé Sallier dans la

lettre qu'il vous écrit ; j'y trouve le bon sens, le bon cœur, et les sentimens, qui lui ont acquis depuis long-tems l'estime, et l'amitié de tous les honnêtes gens, qui ont le bonheur de le connoître. Ayez la bonté, Madame, de lui dire de ma part, tout ce que la plus vive reconnoissance devoit dire ; je tâcherai de la lui témoigner moi-même bientôt en droiture.

Vous aurez bientôt à Paris, Mylady Hervey, son fils, sa fille, son gendre, et *tutti quanti*. Elle a voulu absolument vous porter quelque chose de ma part, et en effet elle vous porte une petite tabatière, mais ne croyez pas que ce soit en forme de présent. Pour vous tranquilliser sur ce sujet, je vous déclare, que la tabatière ne me coute que deux louis, et que je vous l'envoie, simplement pour vous monter à quel point nous imitons bien la porcelaine de Dresde, et pour moins que le quart du prix.

Vous serez fâchée, je crois, d'apprendre que Monsieur le Duc de Richmond* vient de mourir d'une fièvre continue ; son âge, et sa force, lui promettoient encore bien des années. Le Maréchal de Coigny, dont l'âge ne promettoit pas tout-à-fait la même chose, s'est bien mieux tiré de sa dernière maladie, dont j'ai en vérité une joie sensible ; il jouit même de la vie, selon Monsieur de Matignon, qui a assuré Milord Bolingbroke, qu'il est même rajeuni, et plus gai que jamais : c'est bien un aimable Antée.

* Charles Lennox, second Duke of Richmond.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 207.)

à Londres, ce 16 Août, V. S. 1750.

CONNOISSANT comme vous le faites, Madame, mes sentimens, et mon zèle pour tout ce qui vous touche, vous jugerez bien du chagrin que me cause l'impuissance où je me trouve d'exécuter les ordres, dont vous m'avez honoré en dernier lieu. J'ai envisagé l'affaire, au premier abord, comme difficile, mais à présent je sais qu'elle est impossible. J'ai sondé le gué, et quoique je ne suis nullement en liaison avec les Ministres, j'en ai parlé à un, qui m'a dit très-naturellement que cela ne pouvoit se faire. Vous-savez, me dit-il, l'esprit de rébellion qui est enraciné dans ces gens-là ;* leur foi et la foi Punique c'est la même ; la clémence ne les gagne pas, les sermens qu'il font au gouvernement ne les tiennent point ; vous n'ignorez pas non plus que les deux tiers de ceux qui étoient dans la dernière rébellion, étoient des gens qui avoient été dans l'avant-dernière, et qui ne jouissoient de leurs vies, et de leurs biens, qu'en vertu de l'indulgence et du pardon du feu Roi. Plusieurs même avoient des charges, pour lesquelles ils avoient prêté serment de fidélité, qui ne les retint pourtant pas, dès que le tocsin de la rébellion fût sonné. Le nom même de —, ajouta-t-il, car je fus obligé de lui dire le nom, implique rébellion de père en fils : vous saviez tout cela aussi bien que moi, et les menées secrettes de ces Messieurs, pendant que vous étiez dans les affaires ; jugez donc s'il convient, ou à la sûreté, ou à la dignité du Gouvernement, d'en

* The exiled adherents of the House of Stuart.

être une seconde fois la dupe? Je me trouvais, Madame, dans la nécessité de convenir de la vérité de tout ce qu'il me disoit, puisqu'il n'ignoroit pas que je savois que tout ce qu'il me disoit étoit très-vrai. Je vous dirai, de plus, que tous ces rebelles fugitifs chez vous et ailleurs, prennent date seulement de la rébellion publique, se flattant que le Gouvernement ignore leurs cabales, et leurs secrettes menées du depuis; au lieu que, tout au contraire, il en est parfaitement informé. Il voit les deux tiers de leurs lettres; ils se trahissent les uns les autres, et j'ai eu souvent entre mes mains, en même tems, les lettres du même homme, les unes pour tâcher de faire sa paix avec le Gouvernement, et les autres au Prétendant, pour l'assurer que ce n'étoit qu'une reconciliation simulée, pour être plus en état de le servir. Malgré tout cela, je suis fâché de ne pouvoir pas être utile à une personne, à qui vous vous intéressez.

J'ai écrit, et en vérité du fond de mon cœur, une lettre de remercimens à l'Abbé Sallier, que j'aime, et que je respecte.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 345.)

à Londres, ce 30 Septembre, V.S. 1750.

Vous nous enlevez donc, Madame, tout cette force et cette énergie de notre langue, dont nous nous piquons; vous y ajoutez les graces de la vôtre, et vous insultez aux Anglois, même en Anglois. Cela n'est pas honnête; vous auriez dû vous contenter d'écrire et de parler mieux que personne votre propre langue, et nous laisser jouir exclusivement de la nôtre.

Vous prétendiez que je répondisse en Anglois ; je m'en donnerai bien de garde. Les crimes de lèse-grammaire sont pardonnables dans une langue étrangère, mais non dans la sienne propre, et j'aimerois mieux paroître criminel à tous les yeux du monde qu'aux vôtres. Raillerie à-part, Madame, la lettre dont vous m'avez honoré, est presque sans faute. Elle vous a coûté bien du tems et de la peine, dites-vous, mais aussi il y a les Anglois qui se disent lettrés, et qui n'écrivent pas si bien. Je dois me justifier de n'y avoir pas répondu plutôt ; la raison n'en est que trop valable. Depuis plus de deux mois, j'ai été accablé de vertiges et de migraines, au point de ne pouvoir ni lire ni écrire. Des palliatifs les ont adoucis, et je pars dans trois jours pour Bath, dans l'espérance d'y trouver ma guérison. L'espérance est autant de gagné dans les maux de langueur. La faculté prononce que ce n'est qu'indigestion (maladie du bon ton, effet ordinaire de la belle gourmandise) et m'a condamné à votre régime de rôti et de bouilli, à l'exclusion de tout ragoût. Ainsi je ferois une pitoyable figure à Paris aux quatrième et cinquième services, à la mode aujourd'hui, où vos héros gourmands se disputent le prix à force d'estomac, comme les héros se disputoient la victoire aux jeux Olympiques, à force de bras, de jambes, et d'adresse.

On m'assure que Voltaire s'est établi pour toujours à Berlin ; expliquez-moi les motifs d'une telle émigration. Académicien, Historiographe de France, Gentilhomme ordinaire du Roi, et d'ailleurs riche, renonce-t-il à la France pour jouir des agrémens et de la délicatesse Germanique ? Je ne le comprends pas ; s'il est vrai qu'il ait tout de bon dit adieu à la France, il vous

donnera bientôt des pièces bien hardies. La Bastille a jusqu'ici fort gêné et ses vers et sa prose.

Je n'ai pas encore reçu le paquet, que vous avez bien voulu m'envoyer. Le monde littéraire de France m'est tout aussi inconnu, depuis six mois, que celui de la lune : nous destinez-vous bientôt quelque chose de votre façon, pour me consoler de l'inaction, dans laquelle mon esprit languit faute d'aliment ? Je ne compte pas votre charmante épître sur Vauxhall et Ranelagh, comme un ouvrage pour vous ; c'est un délassement pour un talent comme le vôtre, en attendant quelque ouvrage plus considérable. L'Essai de Pope sur la Critique seroit un objet digne de votre attention, en cas que vous voulussiez traduire, mais je vous conseille fort de travailler d'invention, et de finir la nouvelle tragédie, que vous avez ébauchée. Vous êtes du petit nombre de ceux, auxquels la paresse n'est pas permise.

Adieu, Madame ; en vérité ma misérable tête, peu digne de vous entretenir quand elle est au mieux, l'est à présent moins que jamais ; mais pardonnez à l'esprit, en faveur des sentimens du cœur, avec lesquels je serai éternellement,

Madame,

Votre, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 211.)

à Londres, ce 25 Septembre, V. S. 1750.

En dépit de mes promesses, Madame, de ne vous point endosser mes compatriotes, en voici un que je prends la liberté de vous recommander. Au reste, ne

craignez rien, ne vous en fâchez pas d'abord, et j'ose dire que vous m'en saurez gré après. C'est Monsieur le Comte de Huntingdon, un des premiers Pairs d'Angleterre, et dont la famille est célèbre dans les plus anciennes chroniques. Son mérite et ses talens égalent au moins sa naissance; une érudition profonde le distingue de toute notre jeune noblesse; enfin, il ne lui manque, pour la perfection, que ce qu'il trouvera chez vous, mieux que par tout ailleurs, c'est-à-dire *du monde*. J'ose ajouter un autre mérite qu'il aura, je me flatte, auprès de vous, c'est celui d'être particulièrement de mes amis. Il me regarde comme son père, et je le considère comme mon fils adoptif: je vous supplie donc, Madame, très-instamment de vouloir bien le protéger, l'encourager, et même le conseiller. Il a trop de discernement pour ne pas connoître d'abord tout le prix de votre amitié, et trop de sentimens pour jamais l'oublier; et pour tout dire, il sera bientôt à votre égard, ce qu'est à présent son père adoptif, et

Votre très-fidèle serviteur.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 353.)

à Londres, ce 25 Septembre, V.S. 1750.

RASSUREZ-VOUS, Madame; je vous recommande un Anglois, mais ne croyez pas que j'aie l'intention de vous charger de tous mes compatriotes. Je les connois trop pour abuser jusqu'à ce point de l'amitié dont vous m'honorez; mais celui-ci est une exception dont vous conviendrez et dont vous me saurez gré. C'est le Comte de Huntingdon, que j'ai l'honneur de vous pré-

senter ; jeune seigneur que le mérite et les talens distinguent encore plus que sa naissance ; quoiqu'il soit un des plus anciens Pairs d'Angleterre, de la famille illustre des Hastings, descendant en droite ligne de ce Milord Hastings, qui joue un rôle si considérable dans la tragédie de Jane Shore, que vous avez sûrement lue, écrite par Rowe, l'auteur de la *Belle Pénitente*.

Pour revenir à mon homme, il réunit à un génie politique une érudition profonde ; et son cœur ne le cède en rien à son esprit. Enfin pour tout dire, il est digne d'avoir les entrées chez vous, sans quoi je me serois bien donné de garde d'y avoir été son introducteur. Il a été un an et demi à l'académie de Caen ; votre mérite par conséquent ne pouvoit lui être inconnu. Il a exigé de mon amitié cette recommandation ; et j'ai été bien flatté de pouvoir lui en donner une preuve si essentielle, et de vous réitérer les assurances du véritable attachement, avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 361.)

à Londres, ce 18 Octobre, V. S. 1750.

MADAME,

Nous avons tous deux eu du bonheur ; j'ai reçu votre lettre du 6 Octobre, N. S., et vous n'en avez pas reçu une très-longue de ma part, écrite dix ou douze jours avant. La poste semble se connoître en lettres, et ne livrer que celles qui en valent la peine. Dans cette lettre perdue j'avois accusé la réception du gros paquet de livres, que vous avez eu la bonté de m'envoyer, sur lesquels j'avois hasardé mes sentimens ;

dans celle-ci je vous remercie du paquet, que Monsieur Hotham m'a donné de votre part. Le porteur ne m'a pas moins plû que le paquet; il s'est bien formé en France, je l'ai trouvé bien aimable, ou s'il ne l'est pas, il me l'a paru parcequ'il a parlé beaucoup de vous, Madame, précisément comme j'en pensois, et une conformité de sentimens prévient extrêmement.

Je suis charmé de *Cénie*, malgré l'aversion que j'ai pour les comédies tragiques ou larmoyantes. Cette pièce, quoique touchante, n'est pas tragique. Les situations en sont intéressantes, mais pas affreuses; les sentimens sont vrais, c'est la nature, on s'y retrouve; et ce ne sont pas ces beaux sentimens de caillettes, qu'on n'a jamais sentis. Une autre chose, qui me la recommande, est qu'elle n'est pas en vers, et par conséquent sent moins le brodequin. Je ne puis vous pardonner vos comédies en vers, je suis choqué d'entendre les pagnoteries de Frontin et de Lisette, et les grossières naïvetés de Lubin dans les plux beaux vers du monde. Pour la tragédie je la livre aux poètes; à bien des égards elle ne peut être naturelle, et les vers lui donnent une dignité, qui lui est absolument nécessaire; mais dans la comédie, qui doit être une représentation naturelle de la vie ordinaire, il est monstrueux d'y faire parler les gens en vers bien rimés. Mais dit-on, d'après Horace, la comédie élève de tems en tems sa voix : je le veux bien à un certain point de prose soutenue, et convenable au caractère et au sujet; mais tel, qui doit parler comme on parle, ne s'élève point jusqu'à parler comme on n'a jamais parlé. Un de nos célèbres auteurs comiques l'a essayé. C'est le Chevalier Etherege, qui a fait deux comédies excellentes, intitulés, *She would if she could*, et *The Man*

of Mode, or Sir Fopling Flutter ; et dans une troisième intitulée *Love in a Tub*, il a écrit les grands rôles en vers rimés : mais le public s'est soulevé contre cette insulte faite au sens commun, et en vengeur équitable, il a condamné la pièce pour toujours.

Nous ne méritons pas l'honneur, que vous nous faites de traduire nos pièces et nos romans. Votre théâtre est trop juste et trop châtié pour souffrir la plûpart de nos pièces, qui poussent non seulement la liberté, mais la licence, au-delà des bornes de la décence et de la vraisemblance. Je ne crois pas que nous en ayons six de présentables chez vous dans l'état où elles sont. Il faudroit nécessairement les refondre. Si Prévôt traduit notre *Clarice*,* il doit l'abrégér d'une bonne moitié ; il y a un furieux superflu, et en même tems un intérêt touchant, et des situations intéressantes. Celui qui l'a écrite, qui est aussi l'auteur de *Pamela*, est un libraire, qui manque de savoir et de style, mais qui connoit le cœur. Des sept volumes il en faudroit faire trois.

Mille graces au reste à la bonne compagnie, que vous me nommez. Que j'aurois été aise d'avoir prévenu ce souvenir par ma présence ! Madame Bulkeley est très-aimable, et digne de la place qu'elle occupoit à ce souper.

Je fais réflexion, peut-être un peu trop tard, que si ma dernière lettre vous est enfin parvenu, et que celle-ci la suive de près, je vous aurai causé une indigestion littéraire, et que par régime vous serez obligée de ne me plus écrire crainte des suites. Je finirai donc brusquement, et sans vous dire à quel point je suis, &c.

* Richardson's *Clarissa*.

P. S.—Le Maréchal de Saxe n'étant à présent d'aucune secte, il ne s'embarrassera guères où son corps reposera.* Les vers en auront également leur part, soit sous la protection de St. Pierre, soit sous celle de Luther ou de Calvin: mais sa gloire est en sûreté, nous en sommes malheureusement les garans, nous y rendons justice. Les préjugés de nation et de secte vous permettront-ils d'en faire autant en France?

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 213.)

à Bath, ce 1 Novembre V. S. 1750.

TENEZ-moi compte, Madame, d'un silence que j'ai gardé longtems par la force de mon esprit, en dépit des mouvemens de mon cœur, qui en murmuroit souvent, et qui à tous momens vouloit vous dire deux mots. Voici le cas; vers la fin de l'automne, mes vertiges, mes migraines, et enfin tout ce qui peut désoler une tête, s'unirent pour accabler la mienne; il ne lui en falloit sûrement pas tant. Sur ces entrefaites, cette tête, qui sait bien le respect qu'elle doit à la vôtre, et qui, même quand elle est au mieux, soutient fort mal ce vis-à-vis, prit sagement le parti de se cacher, en attendant mieux. Ce mieux est à la fin venu; j'ai porté cette tête ici, sa ressource ordinaire, je l'ai rétablie tellement quellement à force de boire, ces eaux s'entend. La voici donc qui revient, et qui se présente derechef très respectueusement à la vôtre,

* The Maréchal de Saxe having died a Protestant, an objection was made to his being interred, like Turenne, at St. Denis. But a superb monument was raised to him at Strasburg.

c'est-à-dire que je suis beaucoup mieux, et en état de vous réitérer les assurances des sentimens d'estime et d'amitié, qui sont à l'épreuve de tous les maux du monde.

Vous avez donc trouvé le moyen, comme je n'en doutois point, de garder Madame d'Hervey tout l'hiver à Paris : vous avez raison, elle aussi. Ses lettres sont autant d'éloges de la France, et des François, au point même de nous être injurieuses. Elle a souvent le plaisir de vous voir, cela seul me suffiroit pour en dire autant, ou davantage. Au reste, je ne souhaite pas d'être si souvent le sujet de vos conversations, puisque, quelque prévenues que vous soyez toutes les deux en ma faveur, vous me connoissez toutes les deux trop bien, pour qu'il n'entre point bien des *mais* dans ces conversations ; au lieu que j'aimerois mieux que chacune parlât de moi séparément à des gens qui ne me connoissent pas, et alors chacune pourroit, et je me flatte bien qu'elle le voudroit, mentir impunément à mon avantage.

Votre élève est actuellement en France, rôdant en Languedoc, Provence, Dauphiné, &c. Il aura l'honneur de vous faire sa cour avant Noël. Il cherche les Graces à Paris ; je lui ai mandé où il les trouveroit ; si vous croyez que je m'y suis trompé, ayez la bonté, Madame, de lui indiquer leur demeure, au moins j'en ai agi de bonne foi avec lui.

J'apprends de Berlin que Voltaire a dit un adieu perpétuel à la France, et s'est établi dans le nouveau séjour des Muses, sous l'Auguste, et en même tems le Mécène, du Nord ; mais il faut avouer aussi, qu'il a montré plus que de l'art poétique dans le marché qu'il a fait avec ce Prince ; car il a la Clef d'or de Cham-

bellan, l'Ordre de l'Amitié, cinq mille écus d'entrée, et autant de rente viagère, dont deux mille, en cas de sa mort, sont substitués sur sa nièce. Ces conditions sentent plus une des montagnes du Pérou, que celle du Parnasse. Il y a déjà joué son Ciceron par appel, comme d'abus, du tribunal poétique de la France à celui de Berlin, et votre arrêt y a été cassé; mais vous avez tant de beaux esprits à Paris, que vous ne vous ressentirez pas de la perte de celui-ci. Les dames même vous en dédommagent. La comédie pathétique de Madame de Graffigny est excellente dans ce goût-là, et le Milton de Madame du Boccage a, je vous en assure, beaucoup de mérite.* Elle l'a beaucoup abrégé, mais avec jugement; et sa traduction du Temple de la Renommée de Pope est d'une exactitude étonnante. Bon soir, Madame.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 217.)

à Bath, ce 5 Novembre, V. S. 1750.

Nos dernières lettres se sont croisées, Madame. J'ai reçu la vôtre deux jours après avoir envoyé la mienne; de façon que ma justification trottoit en même tems que mon accusation. Celle-ci ne sera donc qu'un remerciement de l'attention que vous avez bien voulu faire à mon silence, qui ne méritoit pas vos regrets, ou vos reproches.

* This moderate praise, even to Madame du Boccage's friend, sufficiently disproves the sarcasm of Horace Walpole, who says of her translation of Milton, that "my Lord Chesterfield prefers the copy to "the original!" (To Sir H. Mann, April 2, 1750.)

Ce lien de notre commerce, cet enfant enfin, l'objet qui a donné lieu aux termes qui pourroient être suspects aux curieux qui ouvreroient nos lettres, aura bientôt l'honneur de vous faire sa cour. Il aura bien plus besoin de votre secours, qu'il n'en auroit eu, s'il eût été l'objet d'un soupçon bien fondé : une telle naissance auroit rendu une bonne moitié de mes soins inutiles. Suppléez, Madame, à ce défaut par les vôtres, et rendez le au moins digne d'une naissance, qui l'auroit rendu plus digne de vos soins. Vous le pouvez, vous qui êtes capable de donner à l'amitié ce que les autres ne savent donner qu'à des sentimens plus vifs. Réellement je compte sur vous uniquement, pour faire la fortune de cet *être* que je vous remets ; les autres lui feront des politesses, m'en diront du bien, mais se soucieront très-peu au fond du reste. Il en seroit précisément où il en est actuellement, et à cet âge c'est reculer que de ne pas avancer : mais je suis bien sûr que vous en agirez d'une toute autre façon. Vous lui direz ses défauts avec cette autorité, qui accompagne toujours la justesse de votre critique, et la manière avec laquelle vous la ferez. Il faut nécessairement qu'il soit gauche, et embarrassé. L'Allemagne ne donne pas les graces, et l'Italie ne les donne guères plus. Ce n'est que dans les bonnes compagnies à Paris qu'on les peut acquérir : permettez lui donc, non seulement, mais ordonnez lui, de fréquenter votre maison les soirées, c'est-à-dire quand il n'y sera pas de trop, et pour vous en soulager quelquefois, fourrez le dans d'autres compagnies ; ce sera une contrainte bien douce, et bien avantageuse pour lui. Il a sûrement un très-grand fond de savoir ; je ne sais s'il a de l'esprit, mais je sais bien que s'il en a, vous mettrez le

comble à son caractère en lui donnant les manières, et les graces, qui ornent les meilleurs caractères, et qui expient en quelque, façon les fautes des plus mauvais. Dans le train ordinaire du monde, combien de gens ne voyons-nous pas, qui ne se sauvent qu'en faveur de leurs manières, et d'autres qui, avec un mérite très solide, ne se font pas jour, faute de ces manières ! On a beau savoir, c'est le je ne sais quoi, qui le fait valoir ; il n'y a que les sauvages qui portent les pierres précieuses brutes.

Adieu, Madame, je pars d'ici en trois jours ; et ce sera de Londres que vous aurez les premières nouvelles de votre très-humble serviteur.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 355.)

à Londres, ce 26 Novembre, V.S. 1750.

MADAME,

IL n'y a que six jours, que j'ai reçu la lettre et le paquet, que vous avez bien voulu m'envoyer ; agréez mes remercimens de l'un et de l'autre.

Les procès, que vous m'envoyez à décider, vous les portez (pour parler en terme de palais) *coram non judice*, et si je prétendois en juger, on appelleroit avec raison de ma sentence : n'importe, tout le monde juge ; souvent ceux qui en sont les moins capables sont les plus décisifs, ainsi je vous envoie mes arrêts, que vous ferez biffer des registres, quand il vous plaira.

In primis, je décide sans balancer, que le Cardinal de Richelieu est l'auteur de son propre Testament ; et que le plaidoyer de Voltaire ne prouve rien contre.

L'ouvrage est marqué au coin d'un Ministre d'Etat, et d'un Ecclésiastique.

J'ai plus de difficulté à décider le procès actuellement litipendant entre votre Roi et le clergé. Les lettres contre le clergé sont bien écrites, ainsi que les réponses; mais sans prononcer, je suis pour le roi, et je considère le clergé de toutes les religions comme un corps, qui a des intérêts et des vues distinctes de ceux du reste du genre humain. Les rois les plus despotiques n'en veulent qu'aux corps et aux biens des hommes; mais tout clergé, depuis le Grand Lama du Thibet jusqu'à sa Sainteté à Rome, et l'Archevêque de Cantorbery à Londres, prétend au despotisme sur les esprits; despotisme d'autant plus dangereux qu'étant une fois établi, il entraîne tout le reste. Le corps et les biens ne sont plus que des guenilles; ces Messieurs ont votre salut exclusivement entre leur mains; et que ne fait-on pas pour l'obtenir? Sept ou huit siècles de suite du règne du clergé, et de l'ignorance, l'ont assez démontré.

Mais cette affaire du clergé paroît avoir cédé la place chez vous à celle des Etats de Bretagne, qui a l'avantage de la nouveauté. Ce n'est pas peu dans tout pays, et moins en France qu'en tout autre. Vous sentez bien que comme Anglois et Parlementaire, je dois être le très-humble serviteur des Etats, ainsi je me tais sur cet article, de peur d'être recusé comme juge partial. Le cheval appella autrefois l'homme à son secours contre le cerf; l'homme le monta, le secourut, le subjuga, et en resta le maître. Les hommes appellèrent aussi les rois à leur secours l'un contre l'autre. Heureusement les chevaux ignorent encore leur force, et les sujets leurs droits naturels; s'ils les

savoient qu'il y auroit de cavaliers désarçonnés et de rois détronés ! Un reste d'ignorance sur ces matières peut-être est le mieux.

Je suis pour la force de l'éducation, convenant en même tems que le naturel entre pour quelque chose en ce que nous sommes. L'éducation ne donne pas sûrement de l'esprit à ceux à qui la nature a refusé le sens commun ; mais l'éducation décide de la tournure de cette portion d'esprit qu'on a ; et de même du cœur, qui n'est pas fait à la vérité, mais en grand partie façonné, par l'éducation. C'est par elle sans doute que les bouchers, les bourreaux, et les inquisiteurs, sont moins compatissans et plus sanguinaires que les autres hommes. Pour ce qui est de ces beaux sentimens d'affection naturelle, qui brillent dans les romans, dans les tragédies, et même à présent dans vos comédies larmoyantes, rien n'est plus fou : un père, une mère, un mari, une femme, des enfans, qui ne sont jamais vus, se connoissent réciproquement par un certain saisissement, un frisson, un tout ce qu'il vous plaira, que leur cause ce sentiment naturel à la vue de l'objet. Si un tel sentiment existoit, quelles découvertes, et par conséquent quel désordre, ne causeroit-il pas à Paris et à Londres ! Quel nombre de citoyens changeroient de père, et verseroient de ces belles larmes d'attendrissement, en découvrant leurs véritables papas dans les palais de Versailles et de St. James, ou peut-être dans le régiment des gardes !

Voilà mes sentimens sur la bibliothèque que vous m'avez fournie, et qui m'a beaucoup amusé. Je vous dirai là-dessus très-véritablement, ce que les épîtres dédicatoires disent presque toujours sans vérité, que si

je crains votre goût, je compte en même tems sur votre indulgence.

Madame de Chesterfield, qui vous fait mille complimens, est occupée à lire les livres, que vous m'avez envoyés, dont j'ai fait trois portions, pour elle, pour Milady Allen, et pour Madame Cleland. Je voudrois pouvoir vous envoyer quelque chose d'ici pour vous amuser ; mais il ne paroît rien qui le mérite. Les Muses sont si occupées chez vous, qu'elles n'ont pas le loisir de nous faire visite ; et vous savez qu'Apollon ne fréquente guères, surtout dans cette saison, le cinquante troisième degré de latitude septentrionale.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 221.)

à Londres, ce 7 Décembre, V. S. 1750.

QUE vos accusations d'esprit, d'habileté, et de netteté seroient flatteuses, Madame, si elles étoient fondées ! En ce cas-là, je passerois volontiers condamnation, et je ne m'en défendrois point, de peur d'être absous ; mais ce sont les menaces que vous me faites, en conséquence de mes crimes supposés, qui m'allarment. Vous voulez changer le style et le ton de vos lettres—au nom de Dieu n'y changez rien ! nous y perdrons trop tous les deux. N'allez pas prendre l'esprit à la mode, mais contentez vous de celui que vous avez, et dont je vous assure que la mode ne passera jamais. Les carats sont, il est vrai, à la mode, c'est qu'ils ne coûtent pas beaucoup, et on les met en mille figures fantastiques, mais ils n'ont pu

bannir la mode des bons gros diamans, que leur valeur intrinsèque a soutenus jusqu'ici, et soutiendra toujours : mais en tout cas, si vous voulez changer votre esprit, pour prendre celui de la nouvelle fabrique, je vous demande en grace de vouloir bien donner votre vieux à votre élève. S'il en a lui-même, il se contentera bien du vôtre, et s'il n'en a pas, laissez aux autres le soin de lui en donner du leur ; vous y perdriez, vos peines, et il ne vous en tiendrait pas compte.

Vous avez bien raison de dire qu'il faut être ce qu'on est ; cela est si vrai que, quelque chose que l'on fasse, on le sera toujours au fond, la matière restera toujours la même. On en peut varier la façon, et y donner quelques nouveaux contours ; mais, on a beau faire, si c'est du plomb, ce ne sera que du plomb ; vouloir lui donner le brillant de l'or, c'est lui donner un ridicule, cette lourde matière n'en est pas susceptible. Pour les manières extérieures, le liant, la politesse, je crois qu'on les peut acquérir par l'usage ; pourvu qu'il y ait un certain fond de sens commun, puisqu'on les voit si souvent couvrir, et même quelquefois orner, de petits esprits, et de grands défauts : au moins vous menerez votre élève aux bonnes écoles pour les apprendre. Introduit par vous, il faut qu'il soit une bête des plus indociles, s'il ne les apprend pas. Je compte qu'en quinze jours d'ici il aura l'honneur de vous faire sa cour, étant actuellement sur la route de Provence à Paris.

Il y a deux ans que je tâche d'avoir de ces gros chiens d'Irlande, dont la race y est devenue extrêmement rare, par l'extinction de leurs ennemis les loups. On m'en envoya deux il y a six mois, que je destinois pour Monsieur le Prince du Conti, mais je découvris

qu'il y avoit un mélange de Danois, qui les avoit épaissis, de sorte que je les renvoyai. J'en attends bientôt des véritables, que j'aurai l'honneur d'envoyer d'abord à son Altesse; en attendant, je vous prie d'envoyer vos ordres à quelqu'un à Calais pour les recevoir, et faites moi savoir à qui je les y dois adresser. Je serai toujours charmé de pouvoir être bon à quelque chose à un Prince de ce mérite.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 225.)

(Décembre, 1750.)

Voici à la fin, Madame, votre futur élève, que j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter : j'ignore pourtant assez quel présent je vous fais, je sais seulement que, quel qu'il puisse être actuellement, il ne tiendra qu'à vous de le rendre bien présentable à l'avenir. Il y a de certains exemples qui sont plus instructifs que tous les préceptes du monde. Comme vous avez pris la résolution de ne pas faire des garçons vous même, adoptez pour quelque tems au moins, je vous en supplie, celui-ci ; l'adoption est cent fois plus importante que la façon, qui n'est à ce qu'on dit que fortuite. Je n'ai pas des vues ambitieuses pour votre élève ; je ne demande pas qu'il gagne des provinces, je souhaite seulement qu'il gagne des cœurs, qu'il soit poli, aimable, et qu'il ait les sentimens et les manières d'un honnête homme, c'est-à-dire que vous l'adoptiez, et que je puisse l'appeller le petit Stanhope. Très sérieusement, Madame, point de ménagemens, point de politesses de votre part, mais prenez avec lui ce ton

d'autorité, auquel l'amitié dont vous m'honorez est le moindre de vos droits : gouvernez le despotiquement, un tel esclavage lui sera aussi utile qu'agréable.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 349.)

(Décembre, 1750.)

MADAME,

M. STANHOPE mon parent, dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous entretenir en Angleterre, a celui de vous porter cette lettre à Paris. Je ne sais s'il est digne de vous être présenté ; mais je sais que chaque fois qu'il aura l'honneur de vous voir, il en deviendra plus présentable. Si l'esprit se communiquoit comme la petite vérole, je lui procure une belle occasion d'en prendre, et de la meilleure sorte : mais il est très sûr qu'on prend insensiblement le ton et les manières de ceux qu'on fréquente. C'est pourquoi je vous supplie, Madame, souffrez qu'il vous fasse de tems en tems sa cour comme ami de votre maison, aux heures qu'il vous sera le moins incommode : il y a des exemples, qui valent mieux que tous les préceptes du monde, et des conseils meilleurs que des ordres. Il connoît déjà, et respecte, comme tout le monde, votre réputation ; mais sans compliment vous valez encore mieux, ce qu'il saura bien à mesure qu'il aura l'honneur de vous connoître personnellement. Je vous demande en grace, Madame, point de façons, point d'indulgence à son égard ; mais prenez avec lui ce ton d'autorité, auquel l'amitié, dont vous m'honorez, est le moindre de vos droits. Ne lui passez rien, ordonnez souverainement ; et, n'en

déplaise au Président,* j'ose répondre que son obéissance à un tel despotisme n'aura pas la crainte, mais le choix, pour principe.

Me pardonnez-vous cette liberté? Oui, Madame, je connois trop vos sentimens pour en douter : vous savez aussi ceux, avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être,
Madame, votre, &c.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 227.)

à Londres, ce 7 Janvier, V. S. 1751.

JE suis charmé, Madame, que vous soyez si contente de notre enfant, comme vous voulez bien l'appeller ; pour moi je suis content, dès que vous croyez qu'il est du bois dont on en fait. Paris, sous vos auspices et vos ordres fera le reste. Je ne vous dirai pas ce qu'il m'a écrit sur votre sujet ; votre panégyrique n'y est pas tout-à-fait si bien tourné que celui de Pline, mais il me paroît partir plus du cœur. Il est pénétré de vos bontés, et je vois qu'il en connoît tout le prix, car il me recommande instamment de vous supplier de vouloir bien lui dire naturellement jusqu'à ses moindres défauts. Vous me demandez, si je compte de le laisser à Paris sur sa bonne foi ; je vous réponds qu'oui, et je vous en donnerai mes raisons. Son gouverneur, auquel je puis me fier, m'assure qu'il n'y a pas le moindre risque. Cela étant, nous voilà en quelque façon à l'abri des grands écueils de la jeu-

* Montesquien, who in his *Esprit des Loix* alleges that fear is the main principle of every despotic government.

nesse; et pour le reste, je crois qu'il est bon qu'un jeune homme s'accoutume de bonne heure à se tirer d'affaire, et à ne pas s'appuyer sur un autre: d'ailleurs, je n'ai jamais vu qu'un gouverneur facilitât à son élève l'entrée dans les bonnes compagnies; mais, au contraire, j'ai souvent vu qu'ils la leur fermoient. En effet, on tolère bien un jeune homme dans des compagnies, où on ne le souffriroit pas s'il étoit toujours accompagné d'un gouverneur sérieux, et rebarbatif. De plus, j'ai tant de surveillans sur lui à Paris, qu'il est impossible que j'ignore sa conduite quinze jours de suite, et il sait fort bien qu'au premier faux pas, je le ferai revénir.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 367.)

à Londres, ce 14 Janvier, V. S. 1751.

EN vérité, Madame, ma reconnoissance égale votre bonté, c'est tout dire en deux mots. Deux feuilles de complimens n'en marqueroient pas si bien l'étendue; aussi mon jeune voyageur sent comme il le doit, les attentions dont vous l'avez comblé. Il se fait gloire d'avoir reçu vos ordres au sujet d'un maître à danser; il se considère comme votre fils adoptif; il fait même allusion à je ne sais qui dans la fable, dont les Muses se chargèrent du soin de l'éducation. Il est sûrement en bonne école; s'il n'en profite pas, ce sera sa faute, puisque vous daignez l'instruire par vos conseils, et par vos exemples. Non seulement il n'a pas l'usage du beau monde, mais je crains qu'il n'ait l'usage du monde Allemand et Italien, ayant passé plus de quatre ans dans ces deux pays; et comme les bons maîtres

préfèrent d'enseigner à ceux qui n'ont jamais appris, plutôt qu'à ceux qui ont eu de mauvais principes, il se pourroit que la roideur Allemande et la pantalonnade Italien retarderoient les progrès du bel usage. Vous taxez, Madame, votre pays de frivolité, le nôtre en a tout autant; la différence n'est que dans la façon; la frivolité Angloise est sérieuse, et la frivolité Françoisaise enjouée. Sosie (dans l'*Amphitryon**) préfère un vice commode à une bruyante vertu; et moi le frivole aimable au frivole ennuyeux. Il n'est à présent question ni de l'un, ni de l'autre ici; notre Parnasse, devenu stérile, ne produit rien de bon ni de mauvais; nos pâtisseries mêmes s'en plaignent, obligés de payer plus cher du bon papier, qui n'est pas gâté. Le papier, que vous me faites espérer de m'envoyer quand il paroîtra, ne le sera pas, du moins si les personnes que vous me nommez l'ont employé. Les lettres de Mesdames de la Fayette, de Coulanges, &c., excitent également ma curiosité; ce sont des noms qu'on est accoutumé de respecter.

J'ai ouï lire à M. de Fontenelle, quand j'étois dernièrement à Paris, deux de ses six comédies philosophiques, dont vous m'annoncez la publication: elles étoient pleines de sentiment et de délicatesse, mais il y manquoit un peu du levain comique. J'ose parler ainsi d'un moderne, mais non de Terence, quoiqu'entre vous et moi, je le pense. J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

* By Molière. See act i. scene 4, of that play.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 229.)

à Londres, ce 21 Janvier, V. S. 1751.

C'EST un témoignage bien flatteur pour votre fils adoptif, que vous ne vous repentiez pas, Madame, de son adoption ; pour lui, je vois qu'il en connoît tout le prix ; il s'en fait tant d'honneur, que je le soupçonne de vouloir renoncer à mon nom, pour prendre le vôtre selon les anciennes règles de l'adoption. Pour moi j'y consens, c'est à vous à être sur vos gardes là dessus. Je trouve qu'il a raison de ne vous pas reconnoître en titre de Gouvernante, les idées d'âge et de mauvaise humeur étant inséparablement attachés à ce caractère ; au lieu que les pouvoirs que donne à une mère d'adoption un esprit et un caractère comme le vôtre, sont bien plus étendus, et plus respectés même, que ceux de la nature. On y obéit avec plaisir, et par conséquent avec fruit. Je lui ai écrit aujourd'hui* sur le mot à l'oreille que vous m'avez dit hier ; mais d'une façon qu'il est impossible qu'il vous en soupçonne le moins du monde. Je lui conseille, entre autres choses, une politesse et des attentions universelles pour tout le monde, sans faire le moindre semblant de savoir qu'il en manque. Je m'étends là dessus, et je lui recommande de vous consulter. Ayez donc la bonté, Madame, de lui inculquer cette politesse générale, que doit avoir tout honnête homme ; car je suis sûr que ce que vous lui direz fera plus d'impression sur son esprit, que tout ce que je pourrois lui dire, et il a raison. L'usage du monde ne s'acquiert

* See vol. ii. p. 85, of this edition.

pas dans un jour, il est vrai, il y faut même du tems, mais au moins il s'acquiert bien plutôt quand il est accompagné de conseils tels que les vôtres. Les bonnes maisons, où vous l'avez placé, lui donneront nécessairement les usages, et les manières du beau monde. Du côté du savoir, le témoignage que vous m'avez envoyé de notre Abbé Sallier lui est bien glorieux ; je joins mes vœux aux siens, ou, pour mieux dire, ce seroit le comble des miens, de le voir penser comme vous. Je vous supplie, Madame, de dire à notre Abbé de ma part, tout ce que je devrois lui dire moi-même, sur ses attentions, sa politesse, son amitié : il en aura plus de plaisir, et j'en aurai plus d'honneur, que si je lui faisois payer le port d'une lettre pour le lui dire beaucoup moins bien.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON- CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 233.)

à Londres, ce 7 Février, V. S. 1751.

Vous voulez absolument que votre élève ait du fond ; je le veux bien, et je le crois même ; mais si ce fond n'est pas orné par les manières, la politesse, les attentions, et toutes ces petites graces extérieures, qui sont si aimables, et si nécessaires, il devient assez inutile, et ne rendra guères au propriétaire.

On se fait respecter et estimer par un fond de mérite, et d'érudition ; mais cela ne suffit pas, il faut plaire, et on ne plaît que par les agrémens et les graces. C'est le langage que je lui tiens dans toutes mes lettres ; il me paroît en sentir tout le vrai, il a tous les

jours devant les yeux le meilleur modèle, car je crois qu'il ne manque guères un jour de vous voir, et si à la fin, avec tout cela, il ne se forme point, même malgré lui, il faut qu'il joue d'un furieux malheur. Dites-moi naturellement, Madame, je vous en prie, lui trouvez-vous du mieux à cet égard depuis qu'il est à Paris? Se fait-il peu-à-peu? Marcel lui a-t-il donné un peu meilleur air? et commence-t-il à prendre la couleur de ces bonnes compagnies, qui ont bien voulu le recevoir et le tolérer? S'il a gagné du terrain, il avancera toujours; mais s'il en est encore précisément là où il en étoit à son arrivée à Paris, j'en désespérerai, nonobstant tous vos soins. Il a une telle confiance en vous, que tout ce que vous lui direz fera cent fois plus d'effet sur lui que toutes mes leçons; cela va presque à l'adoration, et vous jugez bien que j'encourage cette disposition. N'y allez donc plus si doucement, et ne lui passez pas la moindre chose. Par rapport à la petite confidence qu'il vous a faite au sujet de sa dépense, je vous dirai que je lui avois donnée carte blanche sur cet article, avec ordre de ne me pas ménager, en tout ce qui seroit nécessaire, ou même décent; mais puisqu'il aime mieux savoir à quoi s'en tenir, et que vous êtes aussi de son avis, pour l'accoutumer à une sorte de règle dans sa dépense, je le veux bien, à condition que vous fixiez la somme nécessaire, par mois. Par exemple, voulez-vous mille, quinze cents, ou deux mille francs par mois? D'un côté, je ne voudrois pas lui fournir pour une dépense inutile et frivole; et de l'autre, je ne voudrois pas qu'il manquât d'argent pour faire une dépense honorable: si vous fixez, par exemple, sa dépense en gros à quinze cents livres par mois, je n'entends pas, entre nous,

qu'en cas de besoin il n'aille pas au delà ; car je ne veux point, par une épargne déplacée, le priver d'aucun des avantages réels qui accompagnent une certaine dépense honnête : ayez la bonté donc, Madame, de me dire la somme que vous jugez à propos que je lui nomme, bien entendu toujours, que nous ne nous brouillerons pas sur un petit excédent de tems en tems.

La lettre de l'Abbé de la Ville est assurément bien flatteuse pour moi ; je l'ai aimé quoiqu'ennemi, et comme tel, je l'ai estimé assez pour le craindre ; mais depuis qu'il nous a été permis d'être bons amis, j'ai conservé pour lui les mêmes sentimens, épurés de cet alliage, qu'y met toujours la crainte. Faites-lui, je vous en supplie, Madame, mille complimens de ma part quand vous le verrez. J'espère que dans le pays d'où il date sa lettre, son mérite et ses talens sont aussi bien récompensés, qu'ils y doivent être connus : pour finir, demandez vous-même ce que je vous dois être, et soyez persuadée, Madame, que je le suis.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 237.)

à Londres, ce 25 Février, V. S. 1751.

IL n'y a que vous au monde qui sachiez combiner les vrais et solides devoirs, avec tous les agrémens de l'amitié ; les autres sacrifient, trop souvent, par des mouvemens d'amour propre, les premiers aux derniers, ils suppriment ce qu'ils devroient dire, pour ne pas dire ce qui déplaira, quelque nécessaire qu'il soit qu'on le sache. Vous, Madame, au contraire, vous vous

acquittez des vrais devoirs de l'amitié, en découvrant la vérité, quelque désagréable qu'elle puisse être, plutôt que de laisser ignorer un mal, auquel peut-être on peut trouver du remède à présent, mais qui, en peu de tems, pourroit devenir incurable. Il y a, dans le portrait que vous m'avez envoyé, et qui, je suis bien sûr, est fort ressemblant, des traits qui me choquent infiniment, et qui défigurent tout-à-fait l'assemblage, malgré d'autres bons traits qui s'y trouvent. Je crains même qu'il ne soit bien difficile de corriger l'original, puisque jusqu'ici vous y avez perdu vos peines, et que, depuis trois ans, j'y ai travaillé sans relâche, et comme il paroît sans succès. Je lui envoie encore par cette poste une lettre,* mais des plus fortes, sur ce sujet : et pour ne vous pas commettre avec lui, et le refroidir à votre égard, ce qui seroit perdre l'unique remède que j'espère, je lui dis qu'en même tems que je reçus, de votre part, une lettre qui lui étoit très-favorable, j'en reçus une autre d'un de mes amis à Paris, sur son sujet, d'une nature bien différente, dont je fais semblant de lui envoyer l'extrait ; après cela je lui fais son portrait, sur les mémoires que vous m'avez fournis, et je finis par des remontrances le plus fortes, qu'il n'aura garde, je crois, de vous montrer. Pour le dépayser encore plus, et pour vous mettre en état de lui parler encore plus fortement sur ces matières, je lui dis que je vous ai envoyé en même tems copie de ce portrait, pour que vous me disiez véritablement s'il lui ressemble ou non. Ayez donc la bonté, Madame, de lui dire que vous avez reçu une telle lettre de ma part, et que

* That letter is missing, there being none in the series of Lord Chesterfield's correspondence with his son between February 11 and 28, 1751.

vous vous trouvez extrêmement embarrassée sur ce que vous me devez répondre ; que vous voyez bien que je suis outré même du soupçon que ce portrait lui ressemble : que seroit-ce donc si vous alliez constater cette ressemblance ? Ceci lui donnera l'alarme bien chaude, et en même tems vous fournira une occasion, non suspecte, de lui dire les choses du monde les plus fortes, sous prétexte de ménagemens pour lui vis-à-vis de moi. En effet, il est perdu s'il ne se corrige pas foncièrement de ces mauvaises manières, de cette pente à désapprouver tout, et de ce penchant à disputer avec aigreur et empire. Qu'il ait de l'esprit, qu'il ait du bon si vous le voulez, c'est un bon fond ; mais aussi vous savez mieux que moi que c'est un fond qui rapportera bien peu, s'il n'est pas cultivé par les bonnes manières, la douceur, les graces, les agrémens, enfin par tout ce qui vous distingue. Il est encore jeune, il est vrai ; mais aussi, depuis un an et demi, il a fréquenté tout ce qu'il y avoit de meilleure compagnie en Italie, et même, depuis qu'il est à Paris, il auroit dû s'être formé considérablement, vu les bonnes compagnies qu'il a fréquentées depuis plus de deux mois, pour ne rien dire de vos préceptes, et de votre exemple. Avec tout cela, vous m'avouez, et je suis sûr que vous mettez tout au mieux, que les progrès sont bien lents ; c'est-à-dire qu'il n'en a point fait du tout. Ceci me fait presque désespérer, et je n'attends de remède, si tant est que j'en attende, que de votre part. Sur votre sujet, il pense au moins comme il doit, et cela étant, il doit naturellement souhaiter de penser comme vous sur tous les autres sujets. Pour vous mettre aussi encore mieux avec lui, s'il est possible, je lui ai mandé que c'étoit simplement à votre sollicita-

tion, que je m'étois à la fin porté à fixer la somme qu'il devoit dépenser par mois, et qu'il avoit si souvent souhaité; que je trouvois quinze cens francs par mois une somme très-raisonnable, mais que pourtant nous ne nous brouillerions pas, s'il prenoit, en cas de besoin, jusqu'à deux mille; bien entendu toujours, comme vous me l'avez conseillé, qu'il ne prit pas pour cela un ton de supériorité ou de mépris pour ceux qui n'en auroient point tant. Moyennant toutes ces circonstances, vous n'avez rien à craindre en ne le pas ménageant; dites-lui librement ses vérités, de votre part il les écoutera patiemment et avec attention: sa fortune est absolument entre vos mains; s'il se corrige, ce ne sera que par vous. Indépendamment de toute tendresse personnelle, il a été si longtems l'objet de mes soins, et je me suis tant flatté d'en faire quelque chose de bon, qu'il me seroit très-chagrinant d'échouer près du port; et ce seroit précisément le cas si, avec un fond d'esprit naturel, et beaucoup d'acquis, il lui manquoit les manières si nécessaires pour les faire valoir.

Pardonnez-moi, Madame, ces détails, pardonnez-moi la peine que je vous donne. Je sais que vous me le pardonnez, puisque je sais que votre amitié n'a point de bornes; ma reconnoissance n'en aura point non plus, et ne finira qu'avec mes jours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-
CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 243.)

à Londres, ce 11 Avril, V. S. 1751.

NE vous en déplaîse, Madame, il ne paroît pas que j'aie pris la mouche trop fort, puisque vous convenez, en même tems, que mes mercuriales ont fait quelque effet. Avec le peuple, et les gens de l'âge de votre élève, qui sont très-peuple, il faut charger les objets un peu au delà du vrai, et je vous avoue que j'avois fait une *caricatura* du portrait que vous m'aviez envoyé, pour qu'il vit ses défauts au microscope. Je continue actuellement de prêcher sur les textes que vous m'avez fournis. J'espère que je ne prêche pas aussi inutilement que font la plupart des prédicateurs. Vous pouvez juger, et me dire mieux que personne, si je prêche avec fruit. Se forme-t-il aux usages, prend-t-il le ton, les manières, les attentions, les graces ? Dites-moi, je vous en supplie, Madame, s'il fréquente les bonnes compagnies, si les liaisons qu'il a formées avec des gens de son âge sont bonnes, et quelles maisons il hante le plus. Je ne vous fais point d'excuses de toutes ces questions impertinentes ; ce seroit trop tard, et vous y êtes accoutumée.

Dans notre Tragédie Angloise de Caton, quelqu'un demande à Caton, si César ne rougit pas de faire telle et telle chose ; Caton répond,

César rougir ! n'a-t-il pas vu Pharsale ? *

Faites en l'application à votre très-humble serviteur.

Comme vous me flattez de tems en tems, en me

* "Cæsar ashamed ! has he not seen Pharsalia ?"

reprochant mon silence, dont vous devriez plutôt me savoir gré, je vous préviendrai cette fois ici, en vous rendant compte de ce qui m'a empêché jusqu'à présent, de répondre à la dernière lettre dont vous m'avez honoré; c'est que n'ayant plus à faire avec les corps terrestres, je me suis amusé avec les corps célestes, et je me suis si bien familiarisé avec les planètes, que, si vous le vouliez, je suis en état de vous donner un supplément à la *Pluralité des Mondes*. Ne croyez pas, au reste, que je préférasse ce commerce avec les planètes au vôtre; rien moins: au contraire, c'étoit pour établir, par Acte de Parlement, votre style dans ce pays ici. J'avois remarqué, depuis longtems, que vous datiez vos lettres onze jours plutôt que moi, et que je les recevois avant même que le jour de leur date fut venu ici. J'étois persuadé que vous deviez avoir raison; je le dis à des astronomes, qui m'assurèrent qu'oui, et que si je m'en informois du soleil ou de la lune, ils ne vous désavoueroient point; que même un Pape avoit été de votre avis, il y a près de deux cens ans, et avoit introduit ce qu'on appelle le nouveau style. Comme bon Protestant je ne voulois avoir rien à faire avec un Pape, mais c'étoit votre style, qui est bien le meilleur que je connoisse, que je voulois adopter. Il m'a fallu pourtant, pour satisfaire au public, qui n'a pas l'honneur de vous connoître comme moi, le payer de quelques argumens astronomiques. De là je suis devenu astronome, et c'est un plaisir que de m'entendre parler d'années tropiques, d'années luni-solaires, intercalaires, &c.* mais enfin voilà votre style établi ici. Voyez par là comment le

* See Lord Chesterfield's serious account of this transaction, and of his own speech, in his letter to his son of March 18, 1751.

public ignore presque toujours les véritables causes des évènements ; car il ne vous soupçonne pas d'entrer pour quelque chose dans celui-ci.

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 371.)

à Londres, ce 20 Mai, V.S. 1751.

POURQUOI m'écrire à présent, ou pourquoi ne m'avoir pas écrit plutôt, direz-vous ? Un moment, Madame ; pourquoi, s'il vous plait, m'avoir envoyé ce recueil de lettres, où Monsieur de la Rochefoucault, Mesdames de la Fayette et de Coulanges, font une si mince figure vis-à-vis de Madame de Sévigné, et pourquoi accompagnez vous ce recueil d'une lettre, qui valoit bien la meilleure des siennes ? Bien d'autres que moi se trouveroient embarrassés ; répondrai-je ? Gardez vous en bien, dit mon amour propre ; faites plutôt une impolitesse qu'une sottise ; voyez les débris du naufrage de tous ces beaux esprits, voulez-vous échouer sur le même écueil ? Ne pouvant répondre à ce raisonnement, j'ai pris le parti de ne pas répondre à votre charmante lettre ; voilà la véritable cause de mon silence, mais la conscience reprend quelquefois ses droits en dépit de l'amour propre. A la fin j'envisageai ce que je vous devois, et je me reprochai le crime de ne pas tâcher au moins de m'acquitter ; c'est une dette, il est vrai, que je manque de moyens de payer, mais la bonne foi exige qu'on donne ce qu'on peut à ses créanciers, ne seroit-ce qu'un sou par livre sterling. En effet, Madame, le moyen de vous payer le plaisir que vous m'avez procuré, non seulement par

les livres que vous m'avez envoyés, mais encore plus par les lettres dont vous m'avez honoré? Enfin, je crois avoir trouvé un expédient pour m'acquitter; c'est de vous envoyer quatre Ambassadeurs, pour vous faire amende honorable en mon nom, quoique, par parenthèse, leurs noms valent mille fois mieux que le mien. C'est Shakspeare, Milton, Dryden, et Pope, l'honneur de notre nation; qui, s'ils vous connoissoient, se feroient honneur d'être placés chez vous. Vous les y trouverez à votre retour en Normandie; ils partent la semaine prochaine pour Dieppe. Ayez quelque bonté pour Dryden, jaloux de la préférence que vous avez donnée à Milton et à Pope. Vous ferez à Shakspeare tel accueil que vous jugerez à propos, vu que quelquefois il mérite le meilleur, et quelquefois le plus mauvais.

Il ne paroît rien ici dans le genre littéraire, digne de votre attention. Deux ou trois pièces de théâtre ont été sifflées, ou tolérées par compassion pour leurs auteurs, qu'on savoit avoir grand faim; les autres se sont épuisés en dissertations politiques sur le ministère, à la mode du pays. Il en est autrement chez vous, où, comme remarque Duclos, il y a une fermentation d'esprit, qui se développe tous les jours. A propos de Duclos, j'aime son dernier livre,* quoique je sache qu'on le critique à Paris. Il a bien étudié les caractères, et bien exposé les préjugés: il dit des vérités avec force, peut-être n'a-t-il pas cette élégance travaillée de style, ni cette politesse de phrases tant à la mode à présent; mais son livre n'en est pas moins bon.

Vauxhall et Ranelagh ont repris les deux premiers jours de cette année qui aient senti l'été; j'ai été à

* *Considérations sur les Mœurs du Siècle*.—See vol. ii. p. 136, of this edition.

m'en a écrit des merveilles ; merveilles s'entend qui ne m'ont pas émerveillé, connoissant comme je faisois la plupart des acteurs, et surtout le rôle que vous y jouez. Mais hélas ! je suis dans le pitoyable cas de sentir toute la force des tentations, sans avoir la force d'y succomber ; car, au fond, ce n'est que foiblesse de ne s'y pas prêter. Les plaisirs ne sont que trop clair-semés ; la raison nous dit de les saisir, ce n'est que la foiblesse ou la paresse qui nous en détourne. Je parle des plaisirs et des tentations des honnêtes gens, et non des crimes, comme vous jugez bien. Au défaut des plaisirs, qui m'ont abandonné, et auxquels je ne pense plus, à moins d'en procurer s'il m'étoit possible aux autres, je vais la semaine prochaine prendre, à leur place, les petits amusemens de *Babiole*, c'est-à-dire m'y promener, chipoter beaucoup dans mon petit jardin, et y soigner mes ananas, et mes melons : c'est que dans ces deux articles, je prétends briller. Passez-moi la mauvaise plaisanterie, et je vous dirai que les *Ménagianas*, les *Scaligérianas*, et tous ces sortes d'*Anas*, n'approchent point de mes *Ananas*. Pour mes melons, ils sont archi-melons ; à force d'art et de soins, je brave notre climat, et je fais venir des melons si délicieux, que s'il y avoit moyen de vous servir comme on sert l'empereur de la lune, à coup d'arbalète, je vous en décocherois de tems en tems jusqu'à *Bagatelle*, qui feroient rougir votre meilleur climat.

À propos de plantes, écorce tant qu'il vous plaira, Madame, à laquelle vous dites que j'attache trop de prix, sachez au moins que, sans l'écorce, l'arbre dépérit, et perd, non-seulement de sa beauté, mais de sa valeur intrinsèque. Il en est de même d'un homme, avec tout le savoir du monde, s'il n'a pas le desir, l'art, les

moyens de plaire; on ne le recherche point, mais au contraire, on est bien fâché de le trouver. Vous ne voulez pas, dites-vous, qu'on balance entre le choix d'un mérite solide, et des agrémens frivoles; mais pourquoi faut-il opter? Le mérite solide doit-il nécessairement donner l'exclusion aux agrémens; je ne le crois pas, mais bien au contraire, je crois qu'il manque quelque chose à la tête d'un homme, quelques talens, et quelques connoissances qu'il ait d'ailleurs, s'il ne connoit pas la nécessité de posséder ces graces et ces agrémens, qu'on appelle frivoles, mais que pourtant ne sont rien moins. On les peut acquérir si l'on veut; ce sont des choses purement mécaniques, que dépendent uniquement de l'observation, et de l'imitation. Je veux absolument que notre garçon les ait; je menace, je flatte, je fulmine, j'amadouë tour à tour. Je le fais venir ici au mois d'Août prochain, pour en faire l'analyse, la revision, et les corrections moi-même; mais dans un mois je vous le renvoye, pour faire, s'il est possible, les progrès qui lui restent à faire. Quelque éloigné qu'il soit encore du but, il n'avanceroit pas d'un pouce ici. Dans les maux chroniques, c'est la continuation des remèdes qui fait l'effet; et dans son mal, qui me paroît opiniâtre, Paris et vos soins sont les seuls remèdes auxquels j'ai de la confiance. Je proteste que la première fois que je le verrai, s'il est gauche, s'il se présente mal, s'il a mauvais air, et mauvaises manières, il me donnera la fièvre. La maussaderie des gens auxquels je ne prends point d'intérêt me la donne bien; en pareil cas il me la donneroit avec transport au cerveau.

Avouez que vous m'avez joué un mauvais tour, en montrant ma précédente à Fontenelle; ce n'est pas

que je craigne sa critique plus que la vôtre, mais c'est que la sienne a le champ libre, et la vôtre est retenue par l'amitié. Tout vieux qu'il est, il sera clairvoyant ; jeune comme vous êtes, vous serez aveugle. Le bandeau de l'amitié, que je préfère à présent à celui de l'amour, me garantira bien de tout ce que j'aurois bien lieu de craindre de votre jugement ; vous portez ce bandeau plus serré, et moi j'en profite plus que tout autre ; ne le levez donc à mon égard, que pour mieux envisager les sentimens, avec lesquels je vous donne le bon soir.

TO THE BISHOP OF WATERFORD.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 233.)

(Blackheath, 1751.)

MY DEAR LORD,

I AM very glad to hear of your safe arrival upon Irish ground, after your distresses upon the Irish seas : escapes always make people either much bolder or more timid than they were before ; yours, I hope, will have the former of these effects, and encourage you rather to visit your friends in England.

I have been a country gentleman a great while, for me, that is ; for I have now been a fortnight together at Blackheath, and stay three or four days longer. The *furor hortensis* has seized me, and my acre of ground here affords me more pleasure than kingdoms do to Kings ; for my object is not to extend, but to enrich it. My gardener calls me, and I must obey. Be as well and as cheerful as you can ; and believe me most faithfully and truly

Yours.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Works, vol. iv. p. 102.)

London, July 31, O. S. 1751.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I MOST heartily wish you and Mrs. Dayrolles joy,* and I believe you have had it. May it continue long! I came to town this morning on purpose to make my compliments to you both, but you were gone to shady groves. I hope you will take those of Greenwich in their turn, and the sooner the better.

En ceci
La femme est comprise aussi.

Lady Chesterfield would have come, to have waited upon Mrs. Dayrolles, but was prevented by a great cold. Adieu!

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 253.)

à Blackheath, ce 1 Août, V. S. 1751.

J'AI doublement regretté votre silence, Madame, n'en sachant que trop la cause, dont votre élève m'avoit instruit, et, je lui rends justice, avec tout l'intérêt que la plus vive reconnoissance de vos bontés devoit lui donner. Il m'avoit appris la maladie de Madame votre mère,† par conséquent vos justes alarmes: je vous assurerois aussi des miennes, si je ne vous en

* On Mr. Dayrolles' marriage. The name of the lady is not mentioned by Dr. Maty, but he extols her graces and accomplishments. (Memoirs, p. 323.)

† Madame de Cursay.—See vol. ii. p. 189, of this edition.

croyois pas très persuadée. Les liens du sang ne sont pas toujours les liens de l'amitié : mais l'amitié fondée sur un mérite, une estime, une confiance réciproques, devient plus vive, et plus tendre, quand elle est resserrée par les liens du sang. C'étoit bien votre cas, et comme vous sentez plus délicatement que toute autre tout ce que vous devez sentir, j'ai bien jugé de votre douleur, avant que d'en avoir été informé par vous-même, par la dernière lettre dont vous m'avez honoré ; c'est ce qui m'a empêché de vous écrire plutôt. Vous étiez trop occupée pour un commerce ordinaire, et je trouve qu'il n'y a rien de plus frivole, de plus importun, et même de plus impertinent, que des lettres consolatoires, quand les chagrins sont réels. Elles ne se trouvent placées, à mon avis, qu'entre deux personnes, dont l'une veut faire parade de son esprit, et l'autre de sa douleur. Me prouvera-t-on que je ne dois pas m'affliger des malheurs ou de la mort d'une personne que j'aime ? Qui me prouveroit cela prouveroit trop, et même je n'y gagnerois rien ; car alors, par une conséquence nécessaire, je ne dois pas prendre part à leur plaisir, leur santé, et leur bonheur. Qui est insensible à l'un, le sera à l'autre ; c'est sur le principe opposé, que je partage actuellement avec vous la joie que vous ressentez de la convalescence, je ne dis pas d'une mère, mais d'une amie si chère. Ayez aussi la bonté, Madame, de l'en assurer de ma part, avec mes très humbles respects.

J'attends votre élève ici en huit jours, mais comme il n'est votre élève que de huit mois, je m'attends à trouver encore l'édition assez imparfaite, et c'est pour l'examiner, la revoir, et la corriger, que je le fais venir pour six semaines, ou deux mois, tout au plus.

A cet âge, il y a ordinairement de certains défauts, dont la correction est uniquement du ressort de l'autorité; la simple amitié peut plus facilement reprocher un crime qu'une foiblesse. *Vous êtes criminel*, se dit fort bien, d'une certaine façon, d'ami à ami; mais, *vous êtes gauche, impoli, maussade, ou fat*, ne se dit, et ne se peut dire, que par une autorité décidée d'un côté, à une dépendance reconnue de l'autre: tant la vanité de l'esprit est plus sensible que la vertu du cœur. Du côté du cœur, je me flatte, car on m'en assure, que je n'aurai pas beaucoup à faire; mais quant à l'extérieur, aux manières, aux attentions, et quelques millions de certains petits riens, qui par leur nombre deviennent objet, je crains que j'aurai bien de la besogne. L'accueil que votre protection et vos soins lui ont procuré à Paris, lui aura fait accroire, ou bien qu'il n'y avoit rien à changer pour le mieux, ou du moins qu'il n'étoit point nécessaire. C'est de quoi je le désabuserai parfaitement dans nos entretiens ensemble, en cas que vous nous en donniez le loisir; car, vu le ton sur lequel il est monté dans ses lettres sur votre sujet, et que c'est un ton dont je prends facilement l'unisson, vous avez toute la mine d'être le principal objet de ces entretiens.

Depuis trois mois, je suis presque toujours ici, où j'ai plus joui de ma nouvelle galerie que de mon jardin, ou des charmantes promenades voisines, tant le tems a été mauvais. Cet été a si bien contrefait l'hiver, que, sans le secours du calendrier, on s'y seroit trompé. Le peu de fruit que j'ai n'a point de goût, mais heureusement mes ananas, qui, à ce qu'on dit, rassemblent les goûts de tous les fruits, ont bravé le froid, moyennant un bon feu qu'ils

tiennent chez eux. Malgré cela, quelques livres, et quelques amis, font couler le tems assez doucement, et c'est tout ce que je demande; je ne prétends plus en jouir.

Je vois souvent notre ami Bolingbroke, mais je le vois avec bien du chagrin. Une humeur à la joue, qu'il a eue depuis longtems, s'est dernièrement déclarée cancereuse, et fait de grands progrès depuis peu. Jusqu'ici cela ne lui a pas causé de douleur, et c'est tout ce qu'il demande, car pour le reste, il a pris son parti. En vérité un esprit comme le sien, si fort au dessus du commun, méritoit bien que la nature eût aussi fait un effort en sa faveur, du côté du corps, et lui eût donné une santé et une durée extraordinaires.

TO MAJOR IRWINE (AT DUBLIN).

(Works, vol. iv. p. 352.)

Blackheath, September 1, 1751.

SIR,

SHOULD you ever be miserable enough to want my assistance, or I unexpectedly happy enough to be able to give you any, your commands will want no preamble to introduce, nor excuses to attend them. My friendship and esteem for you will sufficiently incline, though your situation will not sufficiently enable, me to serve you.

Lord Albemarle is too good a courtier, and I too bad a one, for us to have met more than once, since his return to England. I have twice endeavoured to see him, but to no purpose, since you desired me to speak to him; but I will persevere till I do; not that

I think I can be of any use to you there, but that you may not think that I would omit the least possible occasion of being so. If Lord George Sackville is sincerely in your interest, your affair will certainly do, as he has not only a great deal to say with his father, but as he is the Duke of Cumberland's military man of confidence in Ireland. I heartily wish that you could get to be Lieutenant-Colonel to your father's regiment, because with that rank, at your age, the rest would do itself. And if you can get the consent of the Government, I would advise you not to haggle with Pearce about the price, but to make him a *pont d'or* to go out upon.

My young man has been with me here this fortnight, and in most respects I am very well satisfied with him; his knowledge is sound and extensive, and, by all that I have yet observed, his heart is what I could wish it. But for his air and manners, Paris has still a great deal to do. He stoops excessively, which I have known *some very pretty fellows* do, though he dances very well; and as to manners, the easy and genteel turn *d'un honnête homme* is yet very much wanting. I shall carry him with me in a fortnight to Bath for the season, where I shall rub him till his re-exportation to Paris, which will be the first week in November, for near a year more. I hardly flatter myself with the hopes of seeing you at Bath this season; nor indeed would I advise you to leave Ireland till your affair is decided one way or other. The observation, *que les absens ont toujours tort*, is in general true; and in your case, would be particularly true in regard to a certain General whom I know.

I am extremely obliged to you for your kindness to

your Lieutenant Heathcote, in which I think I have some share, though I hope and believe he deserves it personally.

I will end this abruptly, rather than employ the common words to assure you of the uncommon esteem and friendship with which I am

Your most faithful humble servant.

P. S.—Pray make my compliments to the Primate,* and to the House of Clements.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

Bath, October 5, O. S. 1751.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I AM heartily glad to find that you nicked your passage to Holland so well, for a day or two later it would have been a bad one; I mean for Madame Dayrolles, *car pour vous, vous avez le pied marin*, and moreover are Minister to the Master of the Seas.

I have been here now just three weeks, though I have drank these waters but a fortnight, upon account of a most confounded cold, which I got at my first arrival. However I find *du mieux*, as Rodrigue happily expresses himself in his gazettes,† and I expect a thorough vamp, before I leave this place, which I shall do just time enough to exhibit a brown suit with a very rich gold button, at the birth-day.‡

The Bentinck faction rules without rivals at your Court at the Hague; I wish them joy of the profit

* Dr. George Stone.

† Of Cologne.

‡ October 30, O. S.

they may make of their administration, but in conscience I cannot congratulate them upon the honour they acquire by it. Every common newspaper shows that there is no government at all; the people even are convinced of it, and do not think of obeying it; a thing that never happens in any country, except where the people know themselves to be stronger than the Government; in that case the Government is never respected, and consequently useless.

I am astonished at Slingelandt's being displeased, that I did not answer, or rather reply to, his letter, for mine was an answer to his. He tells me an anecdote, a fact which I dare say is a very true one; well, what answer is to be made to it? None that I know of, unless I had laid hold of that opportunity to have kept up a regular correspondence with him, and to say the truth, my literary correspondence is already more extensive than my eyes, my head, or my laziness, will admit of.

I am glad of the accounts you give me of my Baron and Duncan, both of whom I love; and pray tell them so. I will write to the former soon, though this is not a place from whence I can write him a letter to his mind. Here I neither enquire, nor know anything of the busy world. I hardly read a newspaper. Thank God, I am safe and quiet on shore; and as I do not intend to put to sea again, why should I study navigation any more? I read here a great deal, but then it is partly for my own amusement, and partly for the improvement of my little friend, who is with me. In that way he labours most willingly, and is even for more of it than I desire to give him. But what I labour at most, and find the most difficulty in,

is, to give him *les manières, la politesse, et la tournure*, of a man of fashion. He thinks knowledge is all; there I differ from him, and endeavour to convince him that, without manners and address, it is very useless. However, I gain ground, and he is already very different from what you saw him. He makes his compliments to you and Madame Dayrolles. Pray make mine to her too; and tell her that, time out of mind, there has always been, *un vieux Dayrolles, et un jeune Dayrolles*, and that, as you cannot now claim the latter appellation, it is incumbent upon her to make us a *jeune Dayrolles, dans la fabrique duquel je la prie très instamment de mettre beaucoup du sien*.*

Before you leave the Hague, pray remember to beg or steal for me some melon-seed of the largest and best Cantelupes. The older it is, the better. *Adieu, mon cher enfant*. I am, with the truest affection,

Yours.

A MADAME LA MARQUISE DE MON-CONSEIL.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 259.)

à Bath, ce 7 Octobre, V. S. 1751.

J'AI attendu le retour de votre élève, et ambassadeur, pour faire de ma réponse à votre dernière une lettre de récréance pour lui. Il est vrai que j'ai attendu bien plus longtems que je ne comptois, ma santé m'ayant obligé d'avoir recours aux eaux de Bath, qui l'ont rétablie, autant que mon chétif tem-

* Mr. Dayrolles was not handsome. When Lord Chesterfield was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he had appointed him Black-Rod at the Castle, and, according to Horace Walpole, "gave the ingenious reason "that he had a black face!"—To Sir H. Mann, May 19, 1747.

pérament gâté le leur a permis. La joie que j'ai sentie de la convalescence de Madame votre mère, n'a pas nui à la mienne; car elle étoit très sincère, et il n'y a rien de plus sain que la joie, surtout pour moi, quand vous y avez tant de part.

Je vous l'avouerai, votre petit ambassadeur à son premier abord me frappa furieusement, non par les graces qui l'accompagnoient, mais par son air, et ses manières. Je ne comprends pas encore où il les avoit pêchés. Je m'appliquai d'abord à le décrotter, et je crois que vous trouverez que je n'y ai pas mal réussi, quoique je convienne qu'il lui reste encore bien du chemin à faire, pour être ce que nous voudrions qu'il fût. Il se tient mieux, il se présente mieux, il ne fretille plus tant des pieds, et il s'est corrigé de plusieurs de ces manières gracieuses qu'il avoit apprises à l'école, et qu'il avoit cultivées depuis, sous les soins des ours, qu'il avoit eu le malheur de rencontrer dans ses voyages. Ce qui me donne de l'espérance, c'est qu'il sent à présent ce qui lui manque, et qu'il me demande instamment de vous supplier de vouloir le revoir, et le corriger de ses moindres défauts, pour en faire, s'il se peut, une édition parfaite. Je souscris volontiers à sa requête, et je vous conjure de ne lui rien passer; non seulement il prendra en bonne part les reprimandes ou le ridicule que vous lui donnerez, mais il vous en saura gré. Il pense sur votre sujet comme il doit, et par conséquent il est convaincu que vous ne pouvez penser que juste sur le sien. Si après cela, malgré tous nos soins, le beau vernis lui manque, il n'y a d'autre parti à prendre que de le placer chez Martin!* Il aura l'honneur de vous présenter de ma

* The inventor of a beautiful varnish at Paris.

part deux babioles de porcelaine de la manufacture d'ici ; ayez la bonté, Madame, de les accepter, non pas comme un présent, car ils ne prétendent pas l'être, mais comme une redevance. Le Saint Père accepte bien une jument, que le Roi de Naples lui envoie tous les ans, quoique le bon homme n'en ait que faire, ou, en cas de besoin, en trouveroit d'aussi bonnes chez lui ; mais c'est qu'il la regarde comme une marque de la fidélité, et de la soumission de ce monarque au Saint Siège ; et pourtant soyez persuadée que le Roi des Deux Siciles n'est pas plus zélé Papiste, que je ne vous suis attaché.

Voulez-vous laisser retourner Madame d'Hervey ou non, ou est-ce qu'elle ne veut pas s'en retourner ? Par ses lettres, je la soupçonne d'un arrangement avec notre Maréchal ; il n'y est question que de lui, elle est à tous momens à—et pour mieux cacher son jeu, elle affiche des sentimens d'amitié et d'attachement pour la Maréchale ; enfin, si quelque chose manque à cet arrangement, ce n'est sûrement pas la bonne volonté. Je languis doublement pour son retour, car si elle ne revient pas, à qui parlerai-je de vous, quand votre élève sera parti ? et il faut pourtant que j'en parle, fut-ce aux roseaux.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, October 28, O. S. 1751.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I ARRIVED here but last night from Bath, which journey delayed till now my answer to your last. I have brought with me from Bath a stock of health, which, with my economy, will, I think, last me for a

year, and I pretend now to no more. Formerly I was foolish enough to think of no more than *au jour la journée*; and now I am wise enough, to expect no more than *de l'an à l'année*.

I am very glad that all was so quiet in Holland, upon an event so little expected as the death of the Prince of Orange. Various conjectures and deep political refinements will be made upon the probable consequences of it; you shall have mine for nothing. *Or sus donc*. In my mind, the whole will depend upon the conduct of the *Gouvernante*.* If that be moderate, gentle, and economical, this event will secure and fix the Stadtholder-form of government more effectually than the life of the Prince of Orange could have done. A minority is not a time for enterprises, nor for the extension of power; and the people the most jealous of their liberties are lulled by the very name of it, into a security, if no imprudent step be taken to rouse their fears, and awaken their jealousies. In the mean time, those who, having had the greatest share in the former Republican Government, were the most uneasy at the alteration of it, if not provoked, will not disturb, and will insensibly grow used, and to some degree reconciled, to the present form, if gently and moderately administered. Many or most of these will be dead, by that time the young Stadtholder comes to be of age; and the growing generation, who will be of age with him, will have seen, nor known no other kind of government, and will naturally look up to a young Prince. As for the herd of the people, a minor is always the object of their compassion, and consequently of their love. In

* The Princess Dowager of Orange.

these circumstances, her Royal Highness may, if she pleases, fix and settle her son's future government upon a more solid foundation than his father could have done. But if, on the contrary, spirit, which always means heat and fury, should be the word, and the active and busy administrations of your Catherines and Marys of Medicis, your Annes of Austria, &c. should prove the model of your *Gouvernante*, that conduct which very near destroyed them in an absolute government, will ruin her and her family irretrievably in a free one.

Now I have shot my bolt, to another point. I send you inclosed the best supplement I can think of to your valedictory letter; by which, as you will find, I leave the preceding paragraph entire as it was, and add to it, as by way of recollection, the exclamation relative to the present state of affairs. If you should think it too rhetorical and declamatory, you may easily whittle it down to more simplicity; but as those pieces are always known to be laboured and studied, if flourishes are proper anywhere, I think they are so upon those formal occasions. But in all events, I insist upon your having the whole looked over and corrected by Chais, or some other person more used to write and to correct than I am. A propos; you will soon have occasion to deliver it, for the Duke of Newcastle told me this morning, that Mr. Yorke would go to the Hague in a few days; and that, in a few days after his arrival there, you would receive your orders to go to Brussels.

Creighton gave me your melon-seed, for which I thank you. * * * *

Creighton tells me moreover, that Mrs. Dayrolles

eats but little, and is sick after eating that little. Pray, with my compliments to her, ask her from me, what she takes to be the cause of that disorder.

I have no news to send you from hence; I have been too few hours in town to know any, and am moreover too indifferent to ask for any.

By a little *brochure*, which my Baron has sent me, and which I take to be written under, at least, the inspection of the King of Prussia, it appears to me that some changes are intended to be made in the form of government of Sweden. If so, that may produce some northern squabbles, though I think they will be carried on rather by the pen than the sword. For I see very many good reasons, why both Russia and the King of Prussia should rather scold than fight. But if they should come to blows, I foretell that Russia will have the better on't.

Pray make my compliments to my Baron; and tell him, that I will soon send him a long and uninteresting letter: my waters, my journey, and my unsettled state, for these last two months, have hindered me from doing it sooner. This is already too long, so good night to you. Yours.

A M. LE BARON DE KREUNINGEN.

(Now first printed.)

à Londres, ce 8 Novembre, V. S. 1751.

ME voici, mon cher Baron, dans mon quartier d'hiver, revenu de Bath, radoubé, me portant bien, et s'il est possible, plus que jamais votre fidèle ami et serviteur.

Votre dernière feuille Sibylline que j'ai soigneuse-

ment gardé du vent, accompagnoit deux petites brochures dont l'une fait faire des réflexions; je veux dire celle sur les affaires de la Suède. Je la crois écrite par les ordres, si non de la main, du Roi de Prusse. Il paroît vouloir sonder le gué pour voir jusqu'où les Etats de Suède pourroient faire quelque changement dans la forme présente de leur gouvernement, sans que la Reine ou quelque autre Puissance en put prendre l'alarme, ou même le prétendre. Car en vérité c'est trop ridicule de dire qu'un Etat indépendant ne peut pas changer la forme de son gouvernement quand il le juge à propos. Et s'il ne le peut pas, il ne faut plus l'appeller un royaume libre, mais une province conquise par cette Puissance qui est en droit de lui imposer une telle loi. L'autre brochure, c'est à dire, la lettre de Monsieur D'Agen, est une pièce fausse et scandaleuse. * * *

L'événement imprévu de la mort du Prince d'Orange doit bien exercer les politiques chez vous; et il est sûr que vous êtes dans une espèce de crise. Si votre gouvernement suit des conseils doux et modérés, voici l'occasion de rétablir vos finances, et de remettre l'ordre. Mais si au contraire votre Gouvernante (comme je ne l'espère pas) se prête à la fougue, aux emportemens, aux fureurs, enfin aux proscriptions de certaines cervelles brûlées que je connais chez vous, je ne dirai pas les suites que j'en crains; elles ne sont que trop claires. Mais comme elle a réellement beaucoup de bon sens, et comme elle a été assez long temps chev vous pour connoître le génie de la République, je suis persuadé qu'elle se conduira fort sagement. *Mon patron* * dont vous jouissez à présent, mais pour peu

* A friendly nickname for Mr. Dayrolles.

de temps, vous aura dit tout ce qui se passe ici, mieux que je ne le pourrois faire. Il est au fait de tout, il hante les grands, et il est le fidèle dépositaire de tous leurs secrets. Il va s'escrimer en politique à Bruxelles contre Monsieur le Marquis de Botta d'Adorno,* et vous n'avez qu'à lui dire quelle Barrière et quel Tarif vous souhaitez, et il vous les donnera. Que dites vous de sa femme? N'est-elle pas belle? Elle l'est sûrement et indépendamment de la comparaison d'une moitié à l'autre. Mon dit patron n'a pu vous porter un autre paquet de mauvais livres que je vous avois destiné, n'ayant plus de place dans son équipage, mais je n'attends qu'une occasion favorable de vous l'envoyer, enrichi et augmenté même de quelques autres, qui ont paru depuis. Au reste, ne vous attendez pas à l'esprit; nous n'en avons plus ici, le sens commun devient même assez rare. Chaque pays a son époque d'esprit, et de bon goût; la France a eu la sienne, nous avons eu la nôtre, nous dégringolons tous deux, que sait-on si quelque jour l'Allemagne n'aura pas aussi la sienne?

Un de mes amis, homme d'esprit, pour ce temps ci, s'entend, a traduit, ou pour mieux dire a imité, la pièce de *Cénie* de Madame de Graffigny. Il en a fait comme de raison une tragédie, et il a substitué à la place de la suivante, qui y jouoit un rôle trop important, un nouveau caractère plus convenable, et plus lié au sujet. Enfin, selon moi, il a très judicieusement corrigé tous les défauts de l'original. Il ne l'a pas encore donné au théâtre, mais dès qu'elle sera imprimée je vous l'enverrai.

Votre santé, mon cher Baron, comment va-t-elle?

* The Imperial Minister at Brussels.

Il me semble que votre Tronchin fait plus le philosophe que le médecin. Pour moi j'aime un *médecin tant mieux*, et qui me donne des remèdes pour me rendre encore mieux. Car pour les consolations philosophiques, elles ne tiennent point contre les maux réels. Je ne connois que deux sortes de maux : le mal physique, et le mal moral : tout le reste n'est que dans l'imagination ; que je sois seulement exempt de ces deux et alors

Tristitiam et metus

Tradam protervis in Mare Creticum

Portare ventis.

Adieu, mon cher Baron, Adieu !

A MADAME DU BOCCAGE.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 375.)

à Londres, ce 7 Novembre, V.S. 1751.

MADAME,

MON pupille s'en retourne à Paris, pour vous faire sa cour ; permettez qu'il vous porte mon hommage. Je ne vous offre pas cette lettre, en payement de celle, dont vous m'avez honoré. Que Voltaire réponde, s'il le peut, à de telles lettres que votre dernière ; il me suffit d'en connoître le prix. Vous m'y parlez, Madame, de mon buste ; oui, faites-le parler comme vous faites parler les quatre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous envoyer, et il passera à Dieppe par le premier bon vent. A ce titre-là ces illustres morts me feroient un accueil gracieux ; à l'exception de Pope, qui malheureusement m'a trop bien connu pour prendre le change, mais qui comme ami peut-être ne me trahiroit

pas. Voici pourtant ce que je trouverois encore mieux : promettez de me faire parler moi-même, comme vous les avez fait parler, c'est-à-dire, comme vous parlez vous-même, et vous me verrez un beau matin, non en buste, mais en personne dans la rue de la Sourdière ; * acceptez plutôt ce dernier parti, il ne vous coûteroit guères, et j'y gagnerois infiniment.

Nous n'avons plus d'esprit ici, ou nous en sommes tous pleins, comme *le menteur* † de vérités, car il n'en sort point. Notre Parnasse n'a point depuis longtems produit des fleurs, mais bien des chardons et des épines, que certains animaux qui s'ébaudissent au bas de cette montagne, dévorent avec avidité ; je n'ai garde de vous en envoyer. Un homme de ma connoissance, qui n'est pas mauvais poète, ‡ travaille actuellement à une traduction de *Cénie*, ou plutôt à une imitation : il en fait, comme de raison, une tragédie ; il substitue à la place de la suivante un caractère plus intéressant, et plus lié avec le principal sujet. Je trouve ces changemens judicieux ; et par ce qu'il m'en a montré, j'augure très-bien du reste : quand il paroîtra, j'aurai l'honneur de vous l'envoyer.

J'apprends que Duclos va donner un nouveau roman. J'en suis bien aise, il écrit avec force, et est dégagé de préjugés plus même qu'il n'ose l'avouer. Ayez la bonté d'assurer Monsieur du Boccage que je l'estime et que je l'honore infiniment ; j'espère que la

* The house of Madame du Boccage at Paris.

† An allusion to the two following lines in Corneille's play, *le Menteur* :

“ Vous avez tout le corps bien plein de vérités,
“ Il n'en sort jamais une.”

‡ The Rev. Philip Francis, known as the translator of Horace, and as the father of Sir Philip.

goutte l'a quitté. Je ne finirois point, si je vous détaillois ce que Mesdames de Chesterfield, Cleland, Montagu, et Milady Allen voudroient que je vous disse de leur part, encore moins si je vous exprimais les sentimens d'admiration et de respect, avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être
 Madame, Votre, &c.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, November 15, O. S. 1751.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

I HAVE received yours of the 19th, N. S. for which this is only an acknowledgment, but no equivalent. All the news of yesterday, such as Speech, Addresses, &c. you will have authentically from the office; and I have nothing to add to it, but that Lord Coventry,* who moved the Address in our House, did it well enough, though agitated at the same time, by the two strong passions of fear and love, Miss Gunning † being seated on one side of him, and the House on the other. Her mother told Lord Granville, who sate next to her, that she was glad for her daughter's sake, that my

* George William, sixth Earl of Coventry.

† "The two Miss Gunnings are twenty times more the subject of conversation than the two brothers (Pelham) or Lord Granville. "These are two Irish girls of no fortune, who are declared the handsomest women alive. I think their being two so handsome and such perfect figures is their chief excellence, for singly I have seen much handsomer women than either; however, they can't walk in the Park or go to Vauxhall, but such crowds follow that they are generally driven away." (H. Walpole to Mann, June 18, 1751.)

Lord had got so well through it, for that the poor girl was ready to faint away. That affair is now within a few days of its crisis, but whether that will be marriage or settlement is undecided; most people think the latter, for my part I rather believe the former.

Sans vanité, as people commonly say, when they say a vain thing, I am of my Baron's opinion, and think it would not be the worse for *la Gouvernante*, if she pursued the measures which I mentioned in my last. I would not give her just the advice, which Lord Clarendon was accused of having given King Charles II. at his restoration, not to mind his friends, but to gain his enemies. But I would advise her to think rather more of gaining over reasonable enemies, than of gratifying unreasonable friends; she is extremely ill at this Court, and Lord Holderness complains much of the reception she gave him. It is apprehended here that she will not continue in the hands we wish; were that the worst I should see no great harm in it, for I know them to be too rough and too heavy for the present delicate situation of her affairs. She should not think of governing by a faction, which they are, and a very small one too, of which I take Sacrelier to be the head and the poor Greffier to be the tail. But she should consult indiscriminately the ablest and the most respectable people of the several provinces, upon the single principle of the public good, and without adopting their provincial piques and prejudices. She should take off all proscriptions, and mitigate all that military stuff of councils of war with unlimited powers, down to the mere necessary discipline of an army. Private and

public economy should be her great objects; and if she would act firmly upon such principles, she would not want our advice, but I believe would do a great deal better without it. I would not desire a finer part to act than she has; and, were I in her case, I would undertake to fix the present form of government upon a more solid foundation than it has been upon since the time of William I. She has parts enough to do all this, if passion did not interfere; for she has undoubtedly the best parts of the whole.

Lord Holderness's baggage is not yet arrived, consequently I have not yet received my Baron's bill of fare, but by a little specimen of it, which he sent me lately in a specimen of a letter, I believe I shall not be able to furnish him with some of the rarities that he desires; for he composes these bills of fare upon the advertisements in the newspapers, and the pastry cooks have been beforehand with him, at this season of minced pies. He is now pastorally inclined, and has wrote to me for some particular pastorals, which to this hour I am very sure no gentleman ever heard of or read.

My boy set out this morning for Paris, improved a good deal, in my mind, *du côté des manières*. Lord Albemarle has promised to employ him in his *bureau* as much as if he were *Sécretaire de Légation*, and if he does, it will be just as well as if he were, the salary excepted, which I do not much mind. But whether this promise will be verified or not, *considering some things which you and I know*, is not so certain. In all events, he has time enough before him; and, if Paris will not do, some other place, some time or other, will. Make my compliments to Madame Day-

rolles, and tell her, that declining to answer my questions is a full answer to them.*

Adieu. Yours.

TO THE BISHOP OF WATERFORD.

(Works, vol. iii. p. 127.)

November 30, 1751.

MY DEAR LORD,

MY reproach by Dr. Thomas, I insist upon it, was a very just one, and your excuse a very lame one! Indifferent as I am grown about most things, you could not suppose that I was become so, where the health and happiness of you and your family were concerned; on the contrary, I find, that in proportion as one renounces public, one grows more sensible to private social, cares. My circle, thank God, is so much contracted, that my attention can, and does, from its centre extend itself to every point of the circumference. I am very glad to hear that your son goes on so well; and, as he does go on so well, why should you move him? The Irish schools and Universities are indisputably better than ours, with this additional advantage, that having him within your reach will be much better for him than a better place out of it: a man no more liveth by Latin and Greek, than by bread alone; but a father's care of his son's morals and manners is surely more useful, than the critical knowledge of Homer and Virgil, supposing

* "Mrs. Dayrolles does not choose to send your Lordship an answer to your question. At first she imagined the pains in her stomach proceeded from eating raw apples, but now she is glad there is no forbidden fruit in the case." (Mr. Dayrolles to Lord Chesterfield, November 19, N. S. 1781. Original MS.)

that it were, which it very seldom is, acquired at schools. I do not therefore hesitate to advise you, to put your son to the best school, that is, the nearest to your usual place of residence, that you may see and examine him often and strictly, and watch his progress, not only in learning, but in morals and manners, instead of trusting to interested accounts of distant school-masters.

His Grace of Tuam's recovery * has, I find, delayed, if not broke, a long chain of Ecclesiastical promotions, of which the first link is the only one I interest myself in; I mean the translation of that good man and citizen, the Bishop of Meath, to Tuam; the more he gets, the more Ireland gets; that being your case too, pray how goes the copper mine? Fruitful, and yet inexhaustible, I hope. If it will but supply you with riches, I will answer for your making the best use of them.

I hear with great pleasure, that Ireland improves daily, and that a spirit of industry spreads itself, to the great increase of trade and manufactures. I think I interest myself more in that country than in this; this is past its perfection, and seems gradually declining into weakness and caducity; that seems but tending to its vigour and perfection, and engages one's expectations and hopes. One loves a promising youth, one only esteems an old man; the former is a much quicker sentiment than the latter: both those sentiments conspire, I assure you, in forming that friendship with which I am,

My dear Lord, your most faithful humble servant.

* Dr. Josiah Hort. He died, however, in the ensuing year, and was succeeded by Bishop John Ryder, of Down and Connor.

TO SOLOMON DAYROLLES, ESQ.

(Now first printed entire.)

London, December 6, O. S. 1751.

DEAR DAYROLLES,

OUR long friendship neither requires, nor allows ceremony and compliments. We are, I dare say, reciprocally glad to write to each other, whenever business does not interfere on your part, or laziness on mine; in either of which cases, be it understood, that the party at leisure, or in humour, *va toujours son train*, whether the other answers or not.

Colonel Yorke has, I suppose, brought you your pass to Brussels,* which I suppose too that you will soon make use of. The sooner the better; in the present situation of affairs in the United Provinces and at St. James's, that of an English Minister at the Hague is not to be envied, *elle sera scabreuse*. If your *Gouvernante* will govern by a faction, a Holland is certainly better than a Frise faction. No faction at all would be the best; and if the ablest and most respectable people of the whole Province of Holland were cordially consulted, they would insensibly be reconciled to the new form of government, at the same time that their experience would enable them, and their interest in the whole incline them, to point out the most prudent measures.

In all events you will be out of the scrape, and I am very glad of it. If you get into any at Brussels with Monsieur le Marquis Botta d'Adorno, it will be

* As King's Resident, to which post Mr. Dayrolles was now transferred from the Hague.

of no great consequence, as he is not in very good odour here.

Our Parliament is so unanimous, that the House of Lords hardly sits at all, and the House of Commons seldom till three o'clock, to the infinite grief of the Speaker, who, I believe, would now willingly change with the first President of the Parliament of Paris, which makes a greater figure at present. The *beau monde* is not quite in such a state of inaction. Your friend, the eldest Miss Gunning, carries on her negotiation in all public places with Lord Coventry. The treaty must surely be near a conclusion one way or another, but whether it will be a final or only a *provisional* one is not yet clear. Miss Roach exhibits to the public * * * of several months by the eldest Delaval, and neither of the *belligerent* or contracting parties seems to care who knows it. Miss Ashe is happily reconciled to Lady Caroline Petersham,* who had broke with her upon account of her indiscretion, but who has taken her under her protection again, upon the assurances that she is *as good as married* to Mr. Wortley Montagu,† who seems so puzzled between Le Châtelet in France, and his wife in England, that it is not yet known in favour of which he will determine.

I have sent my Baron some bad books by Colonel

* William Stanhope, Lord Petersham, afterwards second Earl of Harrington, married in 1746 Lady Caroline Fitzroy, daughter of the Duke of Grafton.

† The only son of Lady Mary, well known for his wayward character and eccentric life. Horace Walpole writes of him at this period: "Wortley, you know, has been a perfect Gil Blas, and for one of his last adventures is thought to have added the famous Miss Ashe to the number of his wives." (To Sir H. Mann, November 22, 1751.)

Yorke, whose departure did not give me time to send him the others that he desired, which I will do by the first opportunity. I will send him two copies of *Hammond's Elegies*,* of which he will send you one to Brussels, if you are there before he receives them. His tender turn is a new one, and may possibly remove his fear of collision with human bodies. Pray, return him my thanks for *les Mémoires de Brandebourg*, which I have at last received from Lord Holderness, with a Sybil's leaf, which I snatched and saved from the wind. Pray make my compliments to Mrs. Dayrolles, *dont la belle édition grossit apparemment tous les jours*.
Your faithfully.

* The Elegies of William Hammond were published after his death in 1742; and Lord Chesterfield, who had been his friend, contributed the Preface. It will be found in Lord Chesterfield's Works, vol. iii. p. 894.

